

Second Ward February - March 2016 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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Parkinson's Disease Awareness. The Council has proclaimed April 2016 to be Parkinson's Disease Awareness month in Minneapolis. All residents are urged to participate in activities and events which support the fight against Parkinson's disease and to support efforts which aid and assist individuals and families living with Parkinson's disease. http://www.pdf.org/parkinson_awareness

Bring Your Own Bag. The Public Hearing for the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance will be held on **March 21** at 1:30 pm. in room 317 at City Hall. Please consider coming in to testify if you support this effort. Council Member Warsame and I have been reaching out for months to interested businesses and organizations. Please contact my office if you would like more information or if your group would like a presentation about this. We are also asking people to document the problems we have with plastic bags as litter in Minneapolis by taking pictures of bags in the environment and posting them to social media with the hashtag **#tumblebag**.

Contract for Minimum Wage Study. The Council has authorized a contracting with a research team led by Samuel Myers from the U of M's Humphrey Institute with representatives from Howard University, Rutgers University, and the Economic Policy Institute to conduct a Minneapolis minimum wage increase study. The team is to complete a comprehensive economic analysis of a citywide minimum wage increase, and separately the impacts of a minimum wage increase in Hennepin and Ramsey counties late this spring or early summer. For more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-148841>

Workplace Regulations Report. The Workplace Regulations Partnership group will present a report on proposed policy recommendations on earned sick time/paid time off to the Committee of the Whole at 10:00am on **March 16**. For more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/pcoc/WCMSP-174618>.

Park Board Levy Referendum. The Minneapolis Park Board has requested that the Council put a special levy referendum on the November 2016 ballot that, if passed, would provide an additional amount of 0.0388 of the estimated total market value of the city for a period of 20 years to pay for park improvements. On March 16 the Committee of the Whole will discuss this matter. To learn more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-173112>

Blue Line Extension. I voted against municipal consent for the Bottineau LRT line, also known as the Blue Line extension in February. While I strongly support LRT, I was surprised and disturbed by the recommended design's failure to reduce the 6-7 traffic lanes that currently exist on Olson Memorial Highway, even though the entire roadway will be reconstructed as part of the project. The City's Pedestrian Advisory Committee took a very strong stance on this issue. In their words, "a 6-lane roadway, regardless of pedestrian enhancements, is incapable of meeting the city's transportation and equity goals for the immediate and surrounding areas. If built as currently required by MN DOT, it will be a dangerous place for pedestrians, a barrier between neighborhoods, and a powerful disincentive to use of the intended centerpiece of this project: the train. A project of this scope represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to truly reconnect the neighborhoods of North Minneapolis, enhance the safety

and comfort of non-motorized users, and provide a street design that informs the type of development that maximizes the two Blue Line stations (as well as the planned Royalston Station). The City of Minneapolis, the Metropolitan Council, and Hennepin County have active plans to improve regional and city-wide transportation options within North Minneapolis with walking, biking, and transit projects beyond the Blue Line Extension. In total, these improvements should enable Olson Memorial Highway to become a premier urban street that does not simply allow for pedestrians, but prioritizes them above regional motor traffic." I am hopeful that the Met Council will hear these concerns and propose some design improvements soon.

Green Zone Workgroup. The resolution I co-authored that will create a Minneapolis Green Zone Policy has passed the Council unanimously. As a result, the City is now looking for interested stakeholders to be a part of a Green Zones Workgroup to develop the policy. The Workgroup will meet approximately once per month between March and December and will make a recommendation to City Council by the end of the year. Those with expertise in environmental justice policies and community representatives with demonstrated technical expertise in climate resiliency and/or cumulative health impact issues as well as representatives from local businesses or industries with expertise in green manufacturing or environmentally-friendly business practices and representatives from environmentally over-burdened communities are encouraged to apply. If you are interested please send an email to kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov by **March 11**, for more information. The Workgroup will be led by the Coordinator's Office, including Sustainability and Equity and Inclusion staff, in conjunction with relevant City staff and external partners. It will present its recommendations to Council for approval no later than fourth quarter 2016. You can find out more here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151461>

Recycling Contract. I was delighted to support and vote to authorize a contract with Eureka Recycling for the processing and marketing of 100% of the city-collected recyclables for 5 years. I am hopeful that Eureka will be an invaluable partner as we move forward developing and implementing a zero waste plan for Minneapolis.

Solar Garden Subscriptions. Working through the Metropolitan Council led process and with my strong support, the Council has voted to become a solar garden subscriber for the first time. We will enter into solar energy agreements with DG Minnesota CSG5 LLC, SolarStone Community LLC, United States Solar Corporation, and Sunrise Community Solar LLC for electricity for City of Minneapolis operations and subscribe to 23 Community Solar Gardens with these four suppliers for a term of 25 years. These subscriptions will cost an estimated \$873,000 annually, and will be offset by estimated annual electrical utility credit of \$895,000 and provide an anticipated overall first year savings of \$28,000. The city will receive roughly 7.5 million kWh annually from the 23 subscriptions. This is roughly 7% of the total electricity the City purchases from Xcel Energy annually. I am hoping that we will soon go out for our own (City-led) solar garden request for proposals soon.

Emergency Shelters Ordinance. My amendment to add a license to better regulate recently allowed emergency shelters in the city will come before the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee on **March 21** for a public hearing and consideration. This is a follow-up to the successful ordinance to allow these new, smaller emergency shelters in more places in the city that passed last year.

Police Body Cameras. In February the Council approved authorizing a contract with Taser International for the purchase of body worn camera equipment and for providing a video storage solution, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000, through March 14, 2021. Before approving this at the Public Safety Committee I made a motion, that carried, to direct the Police Department (MPD) staff to return to the

committee on March 2, to present a plan for community engagement and outreach on the proposed body-worn camera policy, and also to return to the Committee no later than April 6, 2016, to present the final proposed body-worn camera policy. On the second they presented an engagement plan that you can find here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-174474>. I am a longtime supporter of police body cameras, but want to insure that we have a good policy in place to guide their use. The plan is to ultimately have all patrol and SWAT officers equipped with cameras, totaling approximately 600 sworn officers. This will begin in the 1st Precinct (Downtown) with full implementation to all 5 precincts completed by the end of October. Two civilian staff members are being added to aid in records management for the video produced by officers wearing body cameras. Each camera costs approximately \$400, while data storage costs for each individual officer will range between \$80 and \$100 per month.

MPD Body Camera Policy. The Police Department has released a preliminary draft of its body camera policy. It will be reviewed in the weeks ahead and a final policy published in May. The MPD, reportedly, reviewed at least 18 other law enforcement agency policies and considered recommendations from the Police Conduct Oversight Commission, American Civil Liberties Union, International Association of Chiefs of Police, League of Minnesota Cities, Fraternal Order of Police, and the International Municipal Lawyers Association before writing the draft policy. To share ideas, concerns or comments about the draft policy, please attend one of the soon-to-be-announced meetings and/or send an email to police@minneapolismn.gov, with "Body Camera Policy" in the subject line. You can learn more and find a copy of the draft policy at: www.insidempd.com/bodycams.

Gun Violence Prevention Research. In cooperation with colleagues from across the country as a member of the National Network to Combat Gun Violence, I brought forward a resolution which calls on the Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that would repeal the ban on gun violence research as a public health crisis through the Center for Disease Control. Gun violence is clearly a public health issue. Minneapolis has recognized this for a long time. Indeed it is an important element of our Youth Violence Prevention plan. I believe that as a country we need our best scientific minds and resources to help us address this major public health crisis. I am confident that this resolution will be passed by the Council on **March 18th**.

Department Head Reappointments. The Council has approved reappointing all the department head nominees brought forward by the Mayor. This includes the City Coordinator (Spencer Cronk), the Health Commissioner (Gretchen Musicant), the Fire Chief (Joh Fruetel), the City Assessor (Patrick Todd), the City Rights Director (Velma Korbel), the Community Planning and Economic Development Director (Craig Taylor) and the City Attorney (Susan Segal) who were all reappointed for two year terms and the Police Chief (Janee Harteau) who was approved for a 3 year term. While I did express some concerns with the City Attorney's about past advice related to public funding for professional sports stadiums and the perceived tendency of the office to over prosecute, or retaliate against, people engaging in free and protected speech (see <https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/553567424805621> for more of my thoughts on this), I voted in favor of all the reappointments. I look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

Street Maintenance Funding Gap. On March 1st the Transportation and Public Works committee received a disturbing, but anticipated, presentation that reveals significant gaps in future funding for street maintenance and reconstruction. This is a follow up to a more general 2011 report. Staff project that if we are to maintain our streets at a "fair to good" condition level, (based on a Pavement Condition Index scoring system) we will need to spend \$30,000,000 more a year over the next 10 years. You can find the presentation here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-174267>. The report did

not include any options for funding sources, but I expect that information to be coming in the months ahead.

Target Center Renovation Funding. I voted against the Council majority who have approved borrowing (issuing bonds for) \$74,000,000 dollars for renovation of the downtown basketball arena used by the Minnesota professional basketball team. Despite a special state law (that I opposed) that appears to allow us to do this, I chose not to violate the charter provision, which states: “Neither the City, nor any board, commission, committee, or department, nor any governmental body whose territorial jurisdiction is coextensive with or falls wholly within the City, may finance any professional sports facility in an amount greater than \$10 million unless the voters in an otherwise scheduled election (and not an election held only for that purpose) so authorize. For this section 9.4(e)'s purposes, "finance" includes applying existing realty, infrastructure, overhead, or other resources, and forgoing taxes or any other revenue, as well as spending money directly, issuing bonds, or otherwise incurring debt. “

Animal Care and Control Ordinance. The City Council has approved significant amendments, authored by Council Member Andrew Johnson, to our Animal Care and Control ordinance. I believe these changes will bring our policies and practices into better alignment with community expectations to be an animal friendly city and use best practices for humanely regulating animals. The new ordinance provides more transparent protocols for use of euthanasia, transfer to rescue partners, and holding periods for stray and surrendered animals that I am hopeful will help us significantly reduce the number animals being killed by the city. It also removes the requirement for neighbors to sign off on backyard chicken owners with flocks of less than six birds; allows people to keep non-poisonous reptiles and amphibians as pets; stipulates that if “nuisance” animals such as raccoons and squirrels are to be trapped, it must be done using humane methods to allow them to be released to the wild; eliminates the requirement for a rabbit license; prohibits the use of bullhooks with elephants; and increases the number of mature pets allowed in one home or apartment from 3 to 4 (no more than 3 of which can be dogs) unless a “multiple animal” license has been issued to the resident. I introduced the small amendment that will prohibit the use of bullhooks (and similar tools) in Minneapolis as of January 1, 2019. Bullhooks are sharp instruments used to train (hurt and punish) elephants. Prohibiting their use will hopefully help encourage more circuses to phase out the use of elephants and will likely make it impossible for elephant circuses to operate in Minneapolis after 2018. This will also give those currently dependent on elephant acts for their circuses, or currently under a contract for such a circus, time to transition to something else.

Winter Cycling Congress. I was delighted to welcome the fourth annual Winter Cycling Congress to Minneapolis in February that was held in Ward 2 at the Commons Hotel in Stadium Village. We were the first US city to host this event, which is a three-day professional development conference that offers opportunities to learn best practices about winter-specific bicycle and pedestrian planning. The event was a great success, and I want to thank all of the people who helped organize it, including my Policy Aide Robin Garwood.

Mental Health Co-Responder. I am exploring how to bring a mental health co-responder program to Minneapolis. This program would create teams made up of a mental health professional and a police officer working to decrease the likelihood that individuals will be arrested and enter into the criminal justice system because of behaviors related to their mental illness. I am working with community activists and the Police Conduct Oversight Commission on to see if a pilot program could be feasible in 2017.

Criminal Justice Reform Task Force. On March 8th I will be presenting and formally requesting assistance and support from the Police Conduct Oversight Committee for a proposal to for a Comprehensive

Criminal Justice Reform task force. This is an initiative that I have been working with the Coalition for Critical Change on since last year. The task forces would be made up of city staff and community stakeholders, meet for roughly 9 months and be charged with developing recommendations for how the City can eliminate racial disparities within the areas of the criminal justice system that the city of Minneapolis controls or influences. This may include recommendations for amending city ordinances, reforming practices and policies of the Police Department and City Attorney's office that disproportionately impact people of color, and minimizing collateral consequences for those charged with or convicted of a crime.

One Minneapolis Fund. The City of Minneapolis is seeking proposals for One Minneapolis Fund grants, which can help community organizations with leadership development programs and community engagement activities. A total of \$182,000 is available from the One Minneapolis Fund in 2015, and community organizations may apply for up to \$25,000 in funding for projects. To be eligible for funding from the program, an organization must be a non-governmental, non-profit organization serving residents of Minneapolis. Neighborhoods who receive Community Participation Program funding are not eligible to apply, however, they may partner with a community organization on a project in which the community organization serves as the applicant to the One Minneapolis Fund. Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on April 6, 2015. Questions on the program should be submitted to howard.blin@minneapolis.mn.gov. To submit a proposal, visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/procurement/rfp>.

Tenant Voter Registration Notification. The city's new Tenant Notification of Voter Registration ordinance, authored by Council Member Frey, went into effect March 1. The ordinance requires landlords to provide new renters 18 and older with voting registration information when they move in. To make this easier, the city elections division has packets available free of charge that can be requested here: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/resources/tnvr> or calling 311 (or from outside of Minneapolis, dial 612-673-3000). Hopefully this new effort will result in more renters getting registered and voting in Minneapolis elections.

Marijuana Decriminalization Ordinance. The Council has approved the ordinance amendment, which I supported, that removes marijuana from the list of prohibited drugs in the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances. Under Minnesota state law possession of a small amount of marijuana possession is charged as a petty misdemeanor. The City of Minneapolis ordinances classified it as a misdemeanor. This ordinance change will eliminate the current discrepancy so that the possession of a small amount of marijuana can only be charged as a petty misdemeanor.

Repealing Prohibitions about Congregating on Streets or Sidewalks. At a public hearing on **March 2** the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee voted unanimously to recommend repealing the law that prohibits people in groups of 3 or more from congregating on streets or sidewalks. I fully support this repeal, and see it as another of the unhelpful, "New Jim Crow" ordinances that Minneapolis should remove from the books.

Youth Coordinating Board (YCB). In February I was honored to be re-elected as chair of the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB). The YCB is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the healthy development of all children and youth in Minneapolis. It consists of representatives from Hennepin County, the Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools and includes the Mayor and 2 Council Members. Serving on this group, and as its chair, gives me the opportunity to work closely with other elected officials on one my priorities: to make Minneapolis a healthier, better place to raise

children that welcomes and one that supports all families, children and youth. For more information about the YCB visit <http://www.ycb.org/>

YCB Legislative Agenda. The Youth Coordinating Board has approved a 2016 legislative agenda that prioritizes, 1)substantially investing in early childhood development programs (including basic sliding fee child care, early learning scholarships, evidence-based targeted home visiting, access to school-based pre-k for all Minneapolis four-year-olds, etc.) to support low income and high risk families whose children are at risk of poor educational and health outcomes and to address disparities affecting target populations; 2) the creation of a task force on childhood trauma-informed policies and practices based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study; and, 3) increasing access to high quality afterschool programs for 25,000 additional young people by 2020, scaling up funding to reach \$25 million/year by 2020 and, in 2016, \$5 million for competitive grants administered through the Minnesota Department of Education; and, 40 increased funding for summer youth employment including Step Up and Teen Teamworks.

Downtown 100 “Chronic Offender” Program. The Council has approved accepting \$200,000 from the Downtown Improvement District (DID) to continue the downtown chronic offender prosecution program for a 4th year. The purpose of this initiative, which has generally received great reviews, is to reduce crime and recidivism by using a holistic, team-based approach for the most chronic livability property and drug crime offenders in Downtown. This is a cooperative effort between the City Attorney’s Office, the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, Hennepin County Community Corrections, the Police Department, the DID , Safe Zone, St. Stephen’s Homeless Outreach, the Salvation Army and other downtown service providers, business partners, community members and other stakeholders. More recently it has included a focus on young adults aged 18-24 who have a pattern of criminal conduct within downtown Minneapolis, primarily involving property, drug, assault and livability offenses. This program similarly seeks to connect these young adults with needed services. Partners for this program include youth serving agencies such as YouthLink, The Link, Network for Better Futures, Hope Street (Catholic Charities), Streetworks (Lutheran Social Services), Avenues, St. Stephens Homeless Outreach and the Salvation Army. In 2014 there was a 78% reduction in new cases of Downtown 100 and Focus 18-24 offenders. The grant funds \$90,000 for 1.5 Probation Officers and \$110,000 for a community prosecutor. In recent years some concerns have been raised about this program possibly labeling individuals for potentially unfair treatment, and possibly creating unintended collateral consequences and reinforcing racial inequities in our criminal justice system. I am elaborating on it here because, while I support its goals and celebrate its good results, I believe it is due for a more careful review to ensure that we are avoiding unintended and potentially life damaging consequences.

Public Safety Awards, In February the Police Department honored 39 officers and 12 civilians at its annual award ceremony that highlighted several officers and civilians who put their own personal safety aside to help others in need. One incident that occurred in Ward 2 is but one example of the kinds of acts involved. This particular award was a Life Saving Award and it went to Sergeant Anne Moryc who arrived at the 10th avenue Bridge during an overnight shift last June in response to a woman who was threatening to jump off the bridge. Fellow officers were having a hard time building a rapport with her but Sergeant Moryc immediately gained the woman’s trust after empathizing with her situation. Over the course of the conversation, officers learned the person was physically drained, and likely didn’t have enough strength to get back over an unstable fence that separated her from safety. Sergeant Moryc jumped up onto a thin concrete ledge where she was able to grab the woman and hold on to her two hands while other officers steadied her and a few more cut the fence to finally help the woman to safety. A tragedy was averted. I commend officer Moryc, and her team, and am struck by how many

other unknown but heroic and life changing acts of kindness and bravery occur every day in our city. Let me know if you would like to read the other stories and I can send them to you separately.

Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) 2016-2017. Now in its fourth round of funding, the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) has provided the Minneapolis Health Department with \$1.5 to address smoking and obesity that contribute to chronic diseases, disabilities and deaths in Minneapolis. Last year these funds helped five schools integrate salad bars in to their food programs, 95 rental properties (2,800 apartments) implement smoke-free policies; 13 emergency food programs change practices to offer more healthy foods, and residents at 10 Public Housing high-rises conduct walking audits to improve pedestrian safety. The new funding will enable the City to better implement the Staple Foods Ordinance; encourage healthier beverage choices in schools, parks and throughout the city; prioritize healthy eating and active living policies in the City's comprehensive plan; help more landlords create smoke-free properties; improve opportunities for physical activity in Cedar-Riverside; promote Safe Routes to School walking and bicycling opportunities; support healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco-free spaces, and breastfeeding spaces for City employees; and, work with our four community clinics to help children maintain a healthy weight.

Community Connections Conference. Registration is now open for the 4th annual Community Connections Conference that will be held on **Saturday, April 2nd** from 8am to 3pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The 2016 conference theme is *Big Ideas: Your Minneapolis* and will kick-off the three-year planning process for rewriting of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Minneapolis 2040. Additionally, it will include a series of forums to help examine the current and future of our neighborhood structure, the Community Participation Program, which is set to end in the year 2020. A third and final track will focus on how residents can better connect with City leaders, learn how to serve on City boards and commissions and engage cultural communities. The Conference Planning Committee is also seeking proposals for exhibiter at the conference from community and neighborhood organizations, organizations involved in community planning or engagement. Proposals will be chosen by the conference planning committee based on their applicability to the conference theme and level of interactive nature. Proposals are due by Monday March 7th. More information and proposal criteria can be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-173502.pdf> . Proposals must be submitted electronically at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GMDWJG6>.

Car Sharing. Following a public hearing on February 2 the Council adopted a new policy and ordinances formally adding Car Share Operators to the list of approved business licenses and authorized the Public Works Director to regulate car share operators doing business in the City. This concludes our pilot program and now institutionalizes a regulatory framework that will allow these relatively new but promising businesses in Minneapolis. You can find the full policy and ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-152019>

Deputy Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations. The City Council has approved establishing a new Deputy Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations position that will subsume the duties and responsibilities of the existing but vacant Access and Outreach Manager and assist with managing and directing Neighborhood and Community Relations Department community support activities. This will include oversight of neighborhood organization support staff and working with the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), neighborhood groups, community organizations, and various city advisory committees.

Regulatory Services Director Nomination. The mayor has nominated Noah Schuchman for the position of Director of Regulatory Services and a public hearing was held on this nomination on March 1.

Schuchman is the interim directory of this department and was a deputy director under the previous director. He is also former policy aide for Council Member Gary Schiff and has worked for the city for over 10 years.

Perc Dry Cleaning Ordinance. The Council has approved Council Member Andrew Johnson's ordinance that will prohibit any new dry cleaner from using perchloroethylene (or perc). This supported this strategy to help remove these harmful chemicals from our environment, and I'm hoping that we can continue to phase out the use of perc at all Minneapolis dry cleaners.

Roof Depot Site. While I enthusiastically support the requirement that the redevelopment of the Roof Depot site follow the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED NC v4) standard and that the project be certified to the Gold Level of by the United States Green Building Institute, I did not ultimately vote to approve the acquisition of this property for \$6.8 million at 1860 28th St E and 2717 Longfellow Ave for use by Public Works and possibly other city departments. The purchase was strongly opposed by the State Legislators and the City Council Member for the area and a large and organized coalition of community members. The Council majority even rejected a staff direction that would have required some of the property to be reserved for community-supported redevelopment. So, in the end, our failure to address legitimate concerns related to long standing negative health and environmental impacts in the community and gain more community acceptance, made it impossible for me to vote with the Council majority on this.

Paycard Option for Paying City Employees. In an effort to more efficiently pay our employees, improve compliance with city policies and reduce the cost of producing and mailing paper checks, reduce fraud associated with paper checks, and, most importantly, to provide a better option to employees who may be "unbanked" or "underbanked," the Treasury Division of the Finance and Property Services Departments proposes to implement a paycard program. The paycard provides convenient access to funds through ATM's and teller withdrawals eliminating check cashing fees. Kudos to Council Member Quincy for championing this change.

Peter Ginder. In February the Council honored Peter Ginder who is retiring after working for the city for nearly 35 years. Ginder served as Deputy City Attorney and has headed the civil division of the office throughout the time I have been on the Council. I have enjoyed and benefited from Peter's good work over the years and will miss the high level of professionalism, knowledge and sound advice has brought to his work. I sincerely thank Peter for his service and wish him well as he enters the next phase of his life.

Community Participation Program. The city is considering revisions to the Community Participation Program (CPP) Guidelines for the 2017-2019 funding cycle. To review the proposed Guidelines and share your thoughts you are welcome to visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/WCMSP-174183> and attend a meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Crown Roller Mill – 105 5th Ave. S.

Trees, Bins and Barrels. The City is offering several varieties of trees, including fruit trees, for \$25. You can learn more here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/WCMSP-174589>. Trees may be ordered after March 20th and picked up on May 21-23 at the Impound Lot. You can also order a \$59 compost bin or a \$74 rain barrel (that regularly cost \$105 and \$139). Compost bins and rain barrels will be available for pick up April 30. To order your bin or barrel visit <http://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/>

Open Streets 2016. The Council has approved the routes and dates for the 2016 Open Streets events. They include several events in and around Ward 2, including [Lake Street](#) on June 19, [Franklin Ave](#) on August 21, and a new [University area](#) route on October 1. This year the University route will go through the east bank campus, bypassing Stadium Village but including Cedar Ave and the West Bank. The City has also laid out in a clear way the City's roles and responsibilities, and the roles and responsibilities of the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition, which organizes the actual events. I'm proud of the role my office has played to make these events so successful, and will continue to enthusiastically support them.

Franklin Ave SE. City staff have organized a community meeting about the repaving of Franklin Ave SE for **Tuesday, March 8th** at 7pm at the Luxton Recreation Center, 112 Williams Ave SE. The purpose of this meeting is to talk about the construction project and related assessments. Following that there will also be a public hearing about the assessments at the Transportation and Public Works Committee on **March 22** at 9:30am. In terms of the redesign of Franklin to calm traffic and create dedicated bike lanes, I am likely to support the staff recommendation, which adds bike lanes in both directions. My office is continuing to work with the Mayor's office and the only residents on Franklin who do not have off-street parking to meet their parking needs. Folks should also know that Centerpoint Energy is taking this opportunity to work on their underground facilities, and you can learn more and sign up for updates here: <http://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/InYourCommunity/Pages/ConstructionZoneProjectSites/Minneapolis-Franklin-Avenue-SE.aspx?sa=mn&au=res>.

Arts Commission. Congratulations and gratitude to two Ward 2 residents, Lisa Middag and Nathan Soland who applied for and were appointed to the Minneapolis Arts Commission in February. They will each be serving two year terms, ending in December 2018. I look forward to working with them to make the arts a healthier and even more vital part of our neighborhoods and our city.

Bunge Grain Elevators. Project for Pride in Living has applied for a demolition of a potential historic resource to allow for the partial demolition of the grain elevator and reuse of the "head house" at 937 13th Avenue Southeast, 901 12th ½ Avenue Southeast, 901 12th Avenue Southeast, 1200-06 Brook Avenue Southeast. The Heritage Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing and consider this on **Tuesday, March 22**, 4:30pm, in Room 317 City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN. Planning. Please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/hpc/WCMSP-174536> to see renderings of the draft proposal and the full staff report. If you would like to submit comments, you can make them verbally at the meeting or submit them in writing to Shanna Sether, Senior Planner, 250 South 4th Street, #300, Minneapolis, MN 55415, Phone: 612.673.2307, Fax: 612.673.2526, Email: Shanna.Sether@minneapolismn.gov

New Augsburg College Building. Plans are moving forward for a new four-story academic building that, if approved, will be built between 6th and 8th Streets along 21st Ave on property Augsburg College owns. A house that still stands will need to be demolished but the community garden in the area will remain operational both during and after construction. The new building will be called the Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion, and is part of the college's master plan that was unveiled several years ago. The site is currently zoned OR3, High Density Office Residence District, and is located in the University Area Overlay District. Colleges are a conditional use in this type of district and the size of the building requires city site plan review and approval. As part of the project Augsburg is proposing to construct a surface parking lot between the building and 6th St S. In the month ahead the Planning Commission will be considering approving a conditional use permit for a college expansion; a variance to allow parking between a front property line and the building; a variance to reduce the required front yard setbacks along 21st Ave So to allow for a new skyway, a site plan review, and a re-plat to adjust the

legal property lines to fit the building. In 2009 the City “vacated” (granted the college right to build on) South 7th St,) but still needs to vacate the utility spaces, or easements, under the street.

600 Washington Ave SE. I have learned that Harbor Bay Development is planning to construct a 26-story mixed use apartment building at the corner of Washington Ave SE and Harvard St near the U of M East Bank campus. They have submitted a draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that is required because the proposed 430 units exceed the 375-unit threshold. I understand that they have already reached out to the neighborhood organization (PPA) and are scheduled to present to them on April 5th. They are hoping to make a presentation on **March 31st** to the city’s Planning Commission Committee of the Whole.

Glendale Discussion Group Formed. I have facilitated a meeting between Minneapolis Public Housing Authority staff and residents of Glendale Townhomes and other representatives from the Defend Glendale committee, with the active participation of Congressman Ellison’s office. Representative Phyllis Kahn also joined the meeting and State Senator Dziedzic was invited and has been kept informed. Our goal for the meeting was twofold: to start a dialogue between MPHA staff and residents about the requests residents have made for particular repairs, and to discuss ideas, timelines and issues around MPHA organizing a broader community meeting to discuss options for the long term future of the townhomes. We did not expect to walk out of one discussion with solutions. Our goal was to listen for points of agreement and consensus about how to approach these two concerns and I think we found many. Next, my office, working with the Congressman’s staff, will be drafting points of potential agreement that will allow us to move forward and put together another meeting with this group of resident leaders, MPHA staff and possibly other elected officials to find a path forward that everyone can support.

Accent Lighting on 22 on the River. In response to concerns from nearby neighbors to a new linear blue light along to top of part of the renovated apartment at in the old Good Samaritan buildings, I am looking into how this can be addressed. I contacted the developer who sees it as a positive enhancement and assured me she has no intention of expanding it. The law appears open to subjective interpretation. It reads, "No use or structure shall be operated or occupied as to create light or glare in such an amount or to such a degree or intensity as to constitute a hazardous condition, or as to unreasonably interfere with the use and enjoyment of property by any person of normal sensitivities, or otherwise as to create a public nuisance." I have been told that generally we send an inspector out to measure light levels. If it meets but "seems bright" as LEDs often do, we ask the property owner to dim if possible. I don’t think we have much experience trying to apply the law to something like this, that we call “accent lighting.” An inspector will be going out to inspect this property during his next night inspection. I am evaluating the need to improve this vague ordinance and better regulate lighting for the future. If this trend becomes more popular for developers and architects I could see us having to deal with this in many residential areas where the developer thinks it is fine and neighbors think it is a nuisance. I welcome your thoughts on this matter.

2512 Essex St SE. The Council has approved rezoning of a rail parcel and former light industrial building at 2512 Essex St SE. The developers have also started demolishing the warehouse at 117 27th Ave SE as part of their approved construction of a new apartment building.

Hi-Lo Diner. The Hi-Lo Diner, located at 4020 E Lake St, has had its on-sale liquor license with a class E entertainment license approved by the City Council after two modifications were made to the proposed business plan as follows” the closing time for the outdoor patio area will be 10pm every day of the week and they will install a “no left turn” sign prohibiting patrons from driving north out of their parking lot

onto 40th Ave S. With these changes, I am confident that this business will have a successful opening later this month and will not cause undue issues for nearby residents. It is wonderful to see this empty and vacant lot on East Lake Street now home to a new and almost one of a kind restaurant in Minneapolis. I know the owners are committed to making sure that this is an asset to the neighborhood.

Lawless Distillery. The Council has approved a Cocktail Room license for the proposed Lawless Distillery at 2619 28th Avenue South #100. I want to thank the business owners for being approachable and willing to talk to neighbors about their concerns, and putting some conditions on their license that I believe will prevent the sorts of issues people have been worried might occur:

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-172862.pdf>.

Boards & Commissions. Visit the City's website for a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open "Office Hours" in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to confirm that I am holding office hours on the day you want to stop by or reserve some time when I will be there.

First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Thursdays at Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE;

Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

Cam Gordon

Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward

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<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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