

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to the Seward Neighborhood Group
July 27, 2016**

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**Cam's Next Seward/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, July 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

- 1) National Night Out
- 2) Mayor's Budget Address
- 3) New Public Works Director
- 4) Minimum Wage Charter Amendment.
- 5) Intentional Communities
- 6) Police Precinct Leadership Changes
- 7) NCEC Appointments
- 8) Community Participation Program Guidelines
- 9) Neighborhood Funding Allocations
- 10) Future Funding for Neighborhood Groups
- 11) Grants to Increase Bee Habitat.
- 12) City Assessor in Seward
- 13) Carol Greenwood
- 14) Open Streets on Franklin
- 15) New Owner of Old Rainbow Site
- 16) Workforce Planning and Goals
- 17) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Action Plan
- 18) Tire Mulch on Playgrounds
- 19) Openings on Boards and Commissions

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Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612- 673-3737;

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612- 673-3737

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

- 1) National Night Out is set for Tuesday, August 2. This annual event offers all of us a good chance to celebrate community and get to know our neighbors better. National Night Out can be a great way to promote community-police partnerships, discuss issues you care about and make our neighborhoods safer and better. I hope to stop by several events this year and I encourage you all to join with your neighbors and participate in this evening of community building. To learn more visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno/index.htm>, and for a complete list of registered events in your areas see http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno/nno_events-list.
- 2) The Mayor's 2016 Budget Address is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th at 11:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers. This marks the kick-off of the formal budget season with the unveiling of the mayor's proposed budget for 2017 that will then be reviewed, analyzed, amended and ultimately voted on by the City Council in December.
- 3) The Council has unanimously approved Robin Hutcheson to be the next Public Works Director of Minneapolis. I have been very impressed with Robin, and look forward to working with her to, as she has said, "clear the path for good ideas."
- 4) On July 20th the City Clerk announced that the petition to put the minimum wage Charter amendment proposal on the ballot this November has a

sufficient number of valid signatures. The proposal would add a provision in the Charter that would give the City Council the authority to set a minimum wage and would phase in increases gradually over the next 6 years. For employers with 500 or more employees the minimum hourly wage would be \$10 starting August 1, 2017 and increase annually until it reaches \$15 in 2020. Starting August 1, 2021 and each August 1 thereafter, the hourly minimum wage would be adjusted to keep pace with the rising cost of living. For employers with fewer than 500 employees working within the geographic boundaries of the City, the hourly minimum wage would be \$10 starting August 1, 2017 but increase more gradually, a dollar a year, so that it would be \$15 starting August 1, 2022. At the meeting, the Council directed the City Attorney to publish a legal opinion and draft ballot language by July 28th, to be reviewed at the August 3rd Committee meeting in time for final action by the full City Council August 5. Now that the petition is properly before us and once we confirm that it does not constitute a violation of state or federal law, I believe that the proper role of the City Council to approve ballot language and put this matter before the voters in November. You can read more here <http://m.startribune.com/15-an-hour-minimum-wage-first-minneapolis-then-statewide/384768251/>

- 5) If you missed the first two community meetings about the proposed Intentional Communities ordinance in May and June, an additional meeting about it is being convened by the University District Alliance. It will take place on September 12 from 4:45pm to 6:30pm at Van Cleve Park. Everyone is welcome to join us for a presentation explaining the proposal in detail and plenty of time for questions and comments. You can also contact my office for more information. I would be happy to send you the latest draft of the ordinance. It has been written about in the press here: <http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/2016/06/calls-for-more-cooperative-housing/>, here: <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-may-open-door-to-more-communal-living/381263841/> and here: <https://www.minnpost.com/cityscape/2016/05/changes-unrelated-adult-housing-rules-could-bring-intentional-communities-out-shad>
- 6) In July 5 Police Chief Harteau announced changes within the leadership of the city's five police precincts. Inspector Michael Sullivan will be leaving the 3rd precinct (That includes Longfellow, Cooper and Seward) and taking over at the 1st Precinct (That includes Cedar Riverside). Commander Catherine Johnson has been promoted to 3rd Precinct Inspector. She was previously the Commander in charge of the Special Crimes Investigations Division. These changes took effect on July 24th.
- 7) With the neighborhood elections earlier this summer and the Council and Mayoral appointments being approved in July, the members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) is set for the next year. I congratulate the newly elected Commissioners: David Boyd (District 1), Denis Houle (2), Jeanne Montrese (3), District 4 - Marcus Mills (4), Nicholas Cichowicz (5), 6 - Kenya Weathers(6), Antoine Martinneau (7), and Marcea Mariani, who is representative for the District 8 that includes all the second ward neighborhoods. These commissioners will be joined by the new Council appointees, Shannon Bean, Jeffrey Strand and Patricia Vogel as well as the Mayoral Re-Appointee, David Zaffrann and the existing appointed members Maleta Kimmons (Park Board), Raya Esmaeili, Braulio Carrasco and Nasser Mussa.
- 8) A Council Committee has recommended approval of the proposed new Community Participation Guidelines that outline expectations for the officially recognized neighborhood organizations who receive city funding to do so much to improve our communities and city, including doing community outreach to provide advice to city departments and input on city decisions.
- 9) The Council is set to approve the funding allocations for all neighborhood organizations on August 5th, along with approving the CPP guidelines. The 2017-19 allocation for the Seward is \$219,800.

- 10) When the external evaluation of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Department came before the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee in July 11 I moved and the Council approved two staff directions to help us pivot towards preparing better for the future of community engagement and neighborhoods organizations. The first directs staff to work with the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission to consolidate the commission with the old Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board and the second directs staff to identify potential funding options for funding neighborhood organizations after the expiration of the Consolidated TIF district, which is legislatively mandated to end in 2020. They are directed to report back with options to the Committee by Jan. 31, 2017.
- 11) Thanks to a grant of \$80,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation the City has resources to help plant pollinator habitat and trees on commercial and multifamily residential (four-plex or larger) property and community space throughout Minneapolis over the next two years. The pollinator patches are hexagonal (honeycomb) raised beds built of sustainably harvested cedar and willow fence panels, each containing eight to 11 native, neonicotinoid-free plants. (Neonicotinoids are a class of pesticides known to kill pollinators.) Property owners or managers must help with the installation and commit to ongoing maintenance including watering and weeding, and not treating the surrounding area with pesticides or insecticides. The pollinator patches are an initiative of The Beez Kneez education and advocacy program, Healthy Bees, Healthy Lives, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis. To learn more visit www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees. If you are interested in hosting a pollinator patch or pollinator-friendly tree, please contact Tiana Cervantes at EnvServicesInfo@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3515.
- 12) This summer staff from the City Assessor's office will be door knocking in Seward. State law requires that the appraiser from the City physically review all properties once every 5 years to ensure we have accurate information. The appraisers will be carrying City identification. They will be viewing the exterior of properties and will knock on doors to verify property information if a resident is home. They may also ask permission to view the interior of the home. If you have any questions you can call the assessor's office at 612 673-2483.
- 13) Longtime Seward neighbor, activist, and chair of the Seward Neighborhood Group's Environment Committee passed away on June 24th. I had the honor and pleasure of working with Carol on a number of projects over the past 25 years, including supporting the major role she played in drafting the environment section of Seward's Neighborhood Revitalization Plan and later as her Council Member working with her on air quality, clean energy, waste reduction and pesticide elimination efforts. She was a thoughtful, thorough, committed and hands on community leader who cared deeply about her community and was always willing and ready to do the work and push herself, her community and her city elected officials to do better and do more to make this a healthier environment for everyone. Let's keep her husband, Rick, and her family in our thoughts. To learn more about Carol visit <http://www.bradshawfuneral.com/obituary/Carol-Greenwood/Minneapolis-MN/1633637>
- 14) Please join me on Sunday, August 21, 2016 - 11:00am to 5:00pm on Franklin Avenue between Portland and 28th to celebrate our wonderful community and support local businesses during this festival that brings together community groups and local businesses while the street is closed to car traffic and open for people walking, biking, skating, and playing. For more information or to participate in the event, please visit http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/franklin_av
- 15) I have met with the new owners of the Rainbow site, Wellington, who have indicated that they hope reuse some of the property and possibly build a new building on a second and indicated to me that they were interested in building a mixed use building on the street in a portion of the parking lot near Minnehaha and seeing the street at 27th reconstructed to look and feel more like a city street as it passed over the

property. Wellington has done projects in the area and informed me they intend to engage with community members and neighborhood groups as plans move forward.

<http://www.startribune.com/former-rainbow-site-in-south-minneapolis-to-be-redeveloped/388158232/>

- 16) I was both concerned and gratified when the Council received a long awaited report on our workforce diversity and planning efforts to improve it. Since 2012 when we passed the resolution supporting equity in employment and committing ourselves to lead by example we have been clear with ourselves that we need to do more to diversify our own workforce. As of 2015 the city workforce, of some 3,819 employees, is 29.4% female and 25.8% people of color. The bad news is, that despite a variety of efforts we have made since 2009 to raise these percentages, we have made little progress. While we increased the percentage of people of color we hired by 3%, the representation of people of color in the workforces has only gone up 1.4 % since 2009 because the increase in hiring was offset by people leaving the city. The news was worse for woman: representation of females decreased by 2.1% because separations outweighed hiring. As bad as this news was, the good news is that they revealed a path for improvements. With this information e also learned that the city is poised to approve new ambitious workforce diversity goals and a framework for reaching them is in place. Next month I expect the Council to approve workforce goals for 2022 when people of color will make up 41% of our workforce and woman will make up 45% of city workforce. I look forward to approving these goals and helping implement the framework, practices and policies needed to get us there. I encourage you to go here for more information <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/agenda/wcmSP-183417.pdf> .
- 17) On July 15 the Health, Community and Community Engagement Committee reviewed the city's updated ADA Action Plan and released it for a 30-day public comment period. The plan will help insure that City practice and policies comply with the spirit and the requirements of Title II of the ADA. This is a comprehensive, and long overdue, update to our 1993 plan that I am delighted to see come forward. The plan includes improvements for programs, services, and policies to meet current and future regulations and covers removal of physical as well as programmatic barriers. An example of one programmatic change includes, for the first time ever, providing closed captioning for all televised meetings barriers but programmatic barriers as well. Once approves and implements it should make the City's operations significantly more accessible and inclusive of people with disabilities. The plan identifies an ADA Title II Coordinator, grievance procedure, internal workgroup (Accessibility Liaison Network), and public commission (Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities). Among many expected improvements is a complete reworking of our website to insure it interacts with accessibility programs and to add live close captioning for all council meetings. I encourage you to review the plan (available here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-183414>) and share your feedback prior to October it is set to return to the City Council for formal adoption.
- 18) The Council has approved a motion passed by the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee following a presentation and discussion about the use waste tires as ground cover on children's play areas in our city. The Council requested that the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Community Environmental Advisory Commission study and make recommendations regarding the use of waste tires as ground cover in Minneapolis and report back to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee in February of 2017. To see the presentation visit and some more background information <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-182683> You can learn more here <http://healthy-legacy.squarespace.com/waste-tire-mulch/> and http://www.ehhi.org/turf/rubber_mulch_facts08.shtml
- 19) Visit the City's website, <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards/openings/index.htm>, for current openings and a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions for City boards and commissions.