

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 10-24-16

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Thursday, November 17, 9:30-11am

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

- 1) Safety Meeting
- 2) City Budget
- 3) Fall Street Cleaning
- 4) Police Stop Data
- 5) Recycling Chutes Requirement
- 6) Intentional Communities
- 7) Skyway Amendment
- 8) Sidewalk Repairs & Tree Care
- 9) Harris Building Grant
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Everyone is welcome to attend a "Staying Safe in an Unsafe World" workshop featuring Nick Juarez, Crime Prevention Specialist and presented by Southeast Seniors and the Minneapolis Police Department on Wednesday, 10/26, from 1:00-2:00 at Van Cleve Community Center.
- 2) The City budget process for this year is well underway and this year the proposed budget is posted in an interactive format at <https://minneapolismn.opengov.com/transparency> We will continue considering the budget from now until early December with final approval of scheduled for December 7. There will be two public comment hearings on the proposed 2017 property tax levy and budget at 6:05 pm November 30 in and 6:05 p.m. December. 7 both in Room 317, City Hall. Visit www.minneapolismn.gov/budget for more information on the budget proposal and process.
- 3) Comprehensive fall street sweeping began October 18. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they are swept. Cars parked during street designated cleaning days and no-parking times may be ticketed and towed. People can use the City's website at : www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. It will show which week any street is scheduled to be swept. Then, starting on each weekend, the daily sweeping schedule for the upcoming week will display.
- 4) Starting on September 15, police began tracking demographic data, including race and gender, when conducting stops, even where this is no citation issued or arrest made. This includes suspicious vehicle stops, suspicious person stops, and traffic stops. This grew, at least in part, out of a motion I made in December and a subsequent report from the Police Conduct Oversight Commission in May of 2015 that showed how little information was being collected, the police have reaffirmed and strengthened their policy on data collection and added reporting software mechanisms that require officers to enter the information before they can clear a

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call. Demographic information will also be tracked on calls involving truancy, curfew and attempted pick-ups for individuals wanted for criminal activity. I commend the Chief for moving forward with this and for her commitment to report the results out to the public on a quarterly basis. The data that will be gathered by officers will include demographic information, the basis for the interaction, whether a search was conducted and what demographic information was provided to dispatchers if it was in response to a 911 calls.

- 5) The resolution I authored with Council Member Palmisano, that establishes a Recycling Chute Requirements for new apartment and condominium buildings was approved by the City Council this month. It clarifies that the Council supports the Minneapolis Building Official's determination to mandate that when a garbage chute is installed in new construction or major renovations, a recycling chute will also be installed in such a way as to provide equivalent access at all floors served by the garbage chute, as required by the State Building Code. There is more info here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-187016>.
- 6) I am expecting the Intentional Communities ordinance amendments that I am co-authoring with Council member Goodman to come forward for a public hearing in November. Because we are making changes to both the Zoning Code and Housing Code, there will be two public hearings, one before the Planning Commission on November 1st and one before the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee later in the month. You can find more information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward2/> under Current Projects.
- 7) The ordinance amendment that I co-authored with Council Member Palmisano to better regulate skyways was passed unanimously by the full City Council on September 23. The amendment codifies standards and sets requirements for skyways, including a requirement for bird-safe glazing. It clarifies that skyways are only allowed in certain areas, like downtown and on large university or hospital campuses, and may only be built to connect 2nd stories. I am hoping that this is just a first towards seeing even greater consideration of bird-safe building practices
- 8) In response to the presentation in early 2015 by U of M Professor Gary Johnson of his Tree Failure Study Report and with input from the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission, the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Forestry Department, the Council adopted an updated 2016 Urban Forestry Policy in September. The new policy makes changes to sidewalk and road construction repair procedures to better protect trees and clarifies that the urban forest and tree roots should be regarded as valuable public as utilities, similar to how underground water and sewer lines would be valued. Additionally, the Park Board has created a new position called the Forestry Preservation Coordinator (FPC) to support tree health during design review and construction activities. To see the new policy, the study and more visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-185879>
- 9) The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has awarded Minneapolis \$175,000 for limited demolition and stormwater costs on the 4.34-acre Harris Building site located in the Prospect North/Towerside area at 501 30th Ave. SE. The building was previously used for selling and leasing industrial equipment. The funding will support development of a 12,000-square-foot distillery and tasting room, with an additional 6,000 square feet of office space. The project is expected to create 20 jobs and increase the tax base by \$39,563. For more information see <https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/press-releases/?id=260904>
- 10) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Applications will be reviewed beginning Oct. 21. There are 151 open positions on 17 City boards and commissions. Please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for a list of appointment opportunities, position descriptions and the applications.