

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 8-22-16

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE
Thursday, September 18, 9:30-11am**

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Items:

- 1) Mayor's Proposed Budget
- 2) Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
- 3) Community Participation Guidelines
- 4) Neighborhood Funding Allocations Approved
- 5) Future Funding of Neighborhood Groups
- 6) Bird Sage Skyway Ordinance
- 7) Police Complaints
- 8) Intentional Communities
- 9) Ward & Neighborhood Profiles
- 10) Charter Amendments
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Mayor has presented her 2017 proposed budget of \$1.3 billion to cover both operating and capital, or infrastructure, expenses. It includes a 5.5 percent increase in the total amount of property taxes the City will collect (the tax levy). Most of the new spending comes from the previous action we took to better fund parks and streets with some additions focused on public safety, affordable housing and meeting the needs of our growing city. Thanks to that growth, the city's tax base has increased over the last year and, in part because of this, we expect about two-thirds of all residential properties to see a decrease or no increase in the City portion of their property taxes. I was especially glad to see the Mayor propose funding to improve public safety with nearly \$1 million for downstream, community-based strategies, including for a mental-health co-responder pilot program that I have been advocating and for community-based strategies to address and prevent youth violence in areas where it is increasing. You can see the proposed budget here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMSP-184999> and more information about the upcoming hearings and approval process here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/budget/index.htm> . Highlight of the budget include: \$1,305,000 for 15 new sworn police officers, which includes 12 officers dedicated for community policing and three for the mental health co-responder pilot program; nearly \$1 million for community-based strategies to improve public safety, including \$500,000 for community-driven strategies in two locations with high levels of youth violence; more than \$1 million annually for a new, ongoing community service officer class to help build capacity and help diversify the police department; \$400,000 for five additional firefighters; a total of \$14.5 million in affordable housing development; Creation of a small business navigator staff position. I look forward to learning more, sharing more and hearing more from you and others in the months ahead about the budget and final approval on December 7.
- 2) With the neighborhood elections and the Council and Mayoral appointments approved, the membership of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) is now set for the year. I congratulate the newly elected commissioners, including greater Longfellow resident, Marcea Mariani, who is returning to represent District 8 that includes all the second ward neighborhoods. She, and the other district 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 Esmaili, Braulio Carrasco and Nasser Mussa.

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- 3) The Council has approved new 2017-19 Community Participation Guidelines that outline expectations for the officially recognized neighborhood organizations that receive city funding. I believe that the changes made will help organizations be more inclusive, democratic and representative. You can find the guidelines at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/programs/cpp/index.htm>
- 4) The Council has approved funding allocations for all neighborhood organizations. The 2017-19 allocation for the Prospect Park Association is \$189,080.
- 5) The Council has approved two staff directions I moved to help us prepare 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 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.
- 6) The ordinance amendment I am co-authoring with Council Member Palmisano, that would more clearly regulate, and require bird safe materials on new skyways in Minneapolis was moved forward by the Planning Commission, following a public hearing on August 15. It is scheduled to come back to the Zoning and Planning Committee on September 15 for review and recommendation and the full City Council, for final approval on September 23.
- 7) I commend the Minneapolis Police Conduct Oversight Commission for a new report revealing significant and disturbing barriers to filing a police complaint in Minneapolis. They also made several concrete recommendations for improvements and I look forward to seeing the Police Department adopt many of them. I would like to see more ways that complaints could be made at places like the public library and to offer more option for complaints to be made to civilians rather than officers. You can find the report here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@civilrights/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-184609.pdf>; and news coverage here: <http://www.citypages.com/news/undercover-lawyers-find-minneapolis-hinders-complaints-about-police/390017322>, and here: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/08/09/issues-found-filing-minneapolis-police-misconduct-reports>
- 8) A third community meeting about my proposed Intentional Communities ordinance is being convened by the University District Alliance on September 12 from 4:45pm to 6:30pm at Van Cleve Park. Everyone is welcome to join us to learn more. 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>.
- 9) The City's Regulatory Services department has updated profiles for each ward and neighborhood in the city, providing useful data to better understand our communities and plan for improvements. The award winning reports include tables, charts and maps that display the data including basic demographic make of the population, rental licenses, police calls, and more. This is the second round of profiles created, and updates are planned annually. You can find all the 2016 profiles at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/regservices/2016profiles>.
- 10) Earlier this month, the Council majority voted to not allow two citizen-initiated Charter amendments to be placed on the ballot: one to set a city minimum wage and another to require police to carry insurance. I voted against blocking both of them from being put on the ballot. I believe that I, as a Council Member, was obligated to allow both questions to be placed on the ballot because they met the three critical conditions upon which we were to base our decision. First, the petitions had the sufficient number of registered voters signing them and were in the proper format as outlined in state law. Second, they conformed with the other provisions of state law (Chapter 410) relating to City Charters. And third, the proposed changes were not in clear violation of federal or state law, or "manifestly unconstitutional
- 11) 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.