



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 7-25-16

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

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>
www.facebook.com/camgordonward2

Items:

- 1) Community Forum with CMs Cano and Glidden
- 2) Street Vacations
- 3) 600 Washington
- 4) Prospect Park Association/Wall/Barnhart MOU
- 5) Glendale Historic Designation
- 6) Minimum Wage
- 7) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 8) Police Body Cameras
- 9) New Public Works Director Confirmed
- 10) Bird-Safe Skyways Ordinance
- 11) Funding for Southeast Seniors
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me, Council members Glidden and Cano and community members this **Tuesday, July 26 at 6:00- 8:00pm** at Plaza Verde, 1516 E Lake Street, to discuss the shocking violence we have seen in our city, region and country in recent weeks. On the heels of the Orlando massacre and the death of Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, our community comes together to grieve the beloved Philando Castile and the loss of the precious life of a two-year-old baby in north Minneapolis. With the tragic killing of five Dallas police officers and attacks against peaceful protestors, the status quo is unsustainable. We are compelled to build community to better understand the challenges we face and to strategize collectively about police reform. Please join Council Vice President Elizabeth Glidden, Council Member Cam Gordon and Council Member Alondra Cano as they host an open space for residents across our city to share their thoughts and feelings about the recent events in our society and identify ways we can all help create a loving and unified community.
- 2) In response to application by Regents of the University of Minnesota, the Council has voted to vacate (or transfer ownership of) portions of Union St, Walnut, and Pleasant St SE to the U of M, but, with my full support, denied their request to vacate streets near and leading to the Stadium Village LRT Station including the a portion of 23rd Ave SE lying between University Ave SE and 4th St SE and a portion of 4th St SE, lying northwesterly of 25th Ave SE.
- 3) The Council has approved a rezoning of 600 Washington Ave SE to the C3A Commercial Activity Center District, and added the Pedestrian Oriented Overlay District to the entire site, to construct a new 26-story, mixed-use building including 438 dwelling units and 10,500 square feet of commercial space.
- 4) I understand that a Prospect Park Association subcommittee has been working with Barnhart and Wall Companies on a Memorandum of Understanding about development of the parcel north of the University Transitway, between 29th Ave SE and Malcolm. If this memorandum is supported by the PPA, I will do what I can to implement the City policies and prioritization that will be required to aid this redevelopment.

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- 5) City staff and I will be presenting at a community meeting convened by the Defend Glendale Campaign about what local historic designation means and how it is accomplished in Minneapolis. The meeting, with a special focus on what this could mean to the Glendale Townhomes area, will be held on **Thursday, August 11**, from 6:00-8:00pm at the Luxton Park Building, 112 Williams Ave SE. If I am to move forward with this nomination I will need to feel confident that the nomination is supported by a large majority of well-informed Glendale residents.
- 6) 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. 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. 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. You can read more here <http://m.startribune.com/15-an-hour-minimum-wage-first-minneapolis-then-statewide/384768251/> You can learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/15NowMN/>, here: <https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2016/07/paid-leave-rules-and-higher-minimum-wage-are-popular-twin-cities-are-they-le>, and here: <http://m.startribune.com/15-an-hour-minimum-wage-first-minneapolis-then-statewide/384768251/>
- 7) 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.
- 8) After a final report and opportunity for comment at the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee in June, the Police Chief approved a final policy regarding the use of police body cameras in Minneapolis. I was glad to see several modifications made to the policy based on community feedback and the recommendations of the Police Conduct Oversight Commission. Officers of the First Precinct, that includes downtown and Cedar Riverside, will begin using the cameras this month, with all officers expected to be equipped with them by the end of the year. You can view the final policy here http://static.lakana.com/media.fox9.com/document_dev/2016/06/30/mpd-bodycam-policy_1504680_ver1.0.pdf
- 9) The Council has unanimously approved Robin Hutcherson 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.”
- 10) The ordinance amendment I am co-authoring with Council Member Palmisano, that would more clearly regulate, and require bird safe materials and practices on skyways in Minneapolis is coming forward to the Planning Commission and Council in the months ahead. We worked closely with representatives from Audubon Minnesota and the Audubon Chapter of Minnesota to come up with the draft definition for bird-safe glazing and a bird safe glazing requirement. It was on the June 30 agenda of the City Planning Commission-Committee of the Whole meeting for an informal review and is scheduled to come back to the City Planning Commission on August 15 for a public hearing, the Zoning and Planning Committee on September 15 for review and recommendation and the full City Council, for final approval on September 23.
- 11) I am happy to report that the Southeast Seniors proposal was selected for this round of funding at the full request of \$25,000 for the Aging in Place grant. They provide services for over 300 seniors to help them live well in the homes they love in Southeast Minneapolis.
- 12) 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.