



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 5-19-16

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, May 26th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

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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, llama 612- 673-3737

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

Items:

- 1) Park Funding
- 2) Equity & Next Steps for Park Plan
- 3) Emergency Shelter Ordinance
- 4) Intentional Communities Ordinance
- 5) Complete Streets Policy
- 6) Paid Sick and Safe Time
- 7) Police Body Cameras
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On April 29th the Council unanimously approved a plan that obligates it to spend \$800,000,000 over the next 20 years to close the unmet needs for our neighborhood parks and our city streets. I supported this proposal and believe that it offers a realistic way to address the current and future needs with acceptable revenue sources. The agreement includes language requiring both Public Works and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to use this additional funding in accordance with economic equity criteria, reporting back to the City Council annually on progress. The plan will provide an additional \$8 million in annual capital funds for neighborhood parks and a \$3 million increase the park's operating levy, as well as \$21.2 million annually for street capital improvements and an increase of \$800,000 per year for ongoing street maintenance. Most of it (82%) will be paid for through increases in the property tax levy, 7% from sales taxes and an increase in storm water fees, 5% from some clearly identified cash reserves in the first few years, and 5% from reductions in the special pension and tree levies. The proposal also stipulates that a large portion of the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing district, which currently supports the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department and helps fund neighborhood revitalization and organization work, will be decertified in 2020 to provide more property taxes to be used to support streets and parks. This means that we will need to be open minded and thoughtful in finding alternative funding sources to support critical neighborhood, community engagement and revitalization work in our city. Many more details can be found here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-176478>.
- 2) The Park and Recreation Board will now have to pass their own similar park funding ordinance in order for the Council approved plan to move forward. I am confident they will do so and am also impressed that they will also be considering a second park ordinance in June that will help define and ensure how the funds will be equitably spent in neighborhood parks. For more information about the parks criteria visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/closingthegap.
- 3) The ordinance finishing the work on the Overnight and Emergency Shelters ordinance amendments my colleague Lisa Bender and I passed to our Zoning code last year came forward for a public hearing on May 16. This ordinance amendment, if passed by the full Council on the 27th would add a new chapter to our Health and Sanitation section to provide for the licensing and regulation of Emergency Shelters. I expect and hope that this ordinance will pass.
- 4) I am working in conjunction with the Minneapolis Coalition for Intentional Communities on an ordinance amendment that would allow Intentional Communities to share housing up to the maximum safe occupancy of the dwelling they are sharing. Intentional communities will be defined as self-identified groups of two or more people

living together, who share in the management and governance of their household, and who share in the work to maintain their residence. Many intentional communities are cooperatives. The ordinance will create a registration process that will be run by the Regulatory Services department. There will be significant safeguards in place to ensure that unscrupulous landlords and problematic tenants will not be able to take advantage of this ordinance. For example, a landlord will only be allowed to have an ownership interest in one dwelling occupied as an Intentional Community (though cooperatives whose members live in the dwellings they own will not be subject to this limitation). No landlords with any problem properties (defined as Tier II or Tier III) may have an Intentional Community register in one of their properties. If a household registered as an Intentional Community does not meet the City's standards at any point, that household may lose its Intentional Community status and revert to the zoning code's maximum occupancy. Additionally, if registered Intentional Communities violate other laws – hosting noisy and unruly assemblies, breaking the “social hosting” ordinance by having underage drinking on the premises, etc. – that household may lose its Intentional Community status. I have long believed that the way we regulate maximum occupancy in the Zoning Code is problematic, and should change. We need to open our minds – and our laws – to a more flexible definition of ‘family’ that better matches the way many people want to live together in the 21st Century. I view this change as a small, cautious step in that direction, and hope to see it become law in the next few months. My office has organized a community meeting for **Tuesday, May 31**, from 6-8:30pm at the Central Library's Doty Boardroom to discuss this idea, and I am also open to attending any neighborhood group that would like to receive a presentation on this concept.

- 5) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee unanimously supported a Complete Streets policy that will help us immeasurably in re-balancing our transportation system. It establishes a modal priority framework to inform City transportation related decision-making that prioritizes people as they walk, bicycle, and take transit over people when they drive. After expected adoption by the full City Council, all city transportation related decisions will follow the Complete Streets policy and implementation will encompass all elements within the public right-of-way. You can check out the 4 page policy document, and I encourage you to read it, here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-179778.pdf> . Now I believe we will start doing a better job of evaluating and building streets with more things in mind than just the standard, and too often dominant concern, about how many cars can get through in how little time. Success for this policy will mean that we will have a complete, integrated, efficient, safe, comfortable and well-maintained networks for all modes; and, that health of Minneapolis residents, workers, and visitors will be improved through walking and biking; and, that the environment, both in terms of local air and water quality and in terms of global impacts like climate change, will be positively impacted by the City's transportation-related decision-making; that the local economy will be supported and strengthened through the provision of safe, efficient transportation options and vibrant public spaces; that streets and sidewalks – our largest public space – will foster livable, walkable, bicycle-friendly, green neighborhoods by including healthy trees, plants, permeable surfaces, and design features that help define the character of a street while providing added benefits of shade, summer cooling, reduced energy consumption, and improved water quality.
- 6) The Council has heard a public hearing about the proposed Sick and Safe Time ordinance. I am very supportive of this ordinance, and hope to see it pass. In fact, I plan to move to strengthen it by moving to amend it next week at Committee of the Whole by moving to remove the exemption for “casual” health care employees. I do not believe it makes sense to not give nurses and other health care workers the same benefits as other employees. This ordinance is part of the “Working Families Agenda,” which I support. Many Minneapolis employees – and more poor employees and employees of color – lack the basic protections many people take for granted. This needs to change, and it is definitely the City's role to step in to correct this injustice.
- 7) The Public Safety Committee learned today that the first implementation of Police body Camera's, set to begin in the First precinct that includes the West Bank, will not begin until June 27th. I am hoping that expect a final policy governing police worn camera's to be completed by the end of May, and that a public hearing will be held on the next draft of that policy in early June (likely the 8th). After listening to the community concerns at meetings about the draft policy, I have concluded that it should be improved to include the following provisions: police should record interactions with all people who have not requested to be kept anonymous; police should notify subjects that, in certain instances, they have the option to remain anonymous and stop recording if they choose this option; police should allow civilians to review footage of themselves or their relatives and to request this be released to the public and stored for at least two years; and, the policy should prevent officers from reviewing footage of an incident before completing initial reports, statements or interviews about the incident. I will be working with Police Department administration to try to make these parts of the policy if possible.
- 8) 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.