

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 1-25-16

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE  
Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11am**

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### Items:

- 1) 2016 Budget
- 2) Production and Processing Ordinance Passes
- 3) Franklin Ave SE Traffic Calming and Bike Lanes
- 4) 10<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge Rehab in Governor's Bonding Bill
- 5) 117 27th Ave SE
- 6) Neighborhood Revitalization Funds
- 7) Emergency Shelters
- 8) Green Zones
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In December the Council unanimously passed a \$1.24 billion 2016 budget with only a few amendments to the one proposed by the mayor in August. Some amendments I supported. This includes one that reallocates \$50,000 of existing funds to support senior initiatives as part of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime. These funds could potentially support groups like Southeast Seniors and Seward Longfellow Seniors. I also supported amendments that added \$305,000 for implicit bias, procedural justice, and crisis-intervention training for Minneapolis Police officers; that added \$1.5 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide for a total of \$10 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2016; and a motion that will create a racial equity website aimed at both external and internal stakeholders. I did not support the amendment that passed that took \$50,000, proposed by the Mayor, from a new Green Zones initiative or a motion that would have moved \$605,000 to the Police Department for repair/improvement to the 4th Police Precinct that received most of public comment but was ultimately not even moved. If we need to repair damage to the Precinct, there is a City contingency fund that exists for those kinds of unforeseen expenses. If we need to upgrade security for the building, there is an existing capital process for those kinds of investments. Given the recent protests and the raw feelings of grief and anger large parts of our community feel towards the City and especially the police department since the shooting of Jamar Clark, I felt that this was the wrong time to try to put a lot of money towards securing the 4th Precinct without clear and unanimous community support. While it was a long and emotional public hearing, it was also powerful and inspiring. I am glad that the community came out, that so many people spoke so forcefully and eloquently, and that ultimately the Council respected the community's will. In the end I voted, along with my 12 colleagues, for what is really a strong budget, which helps us maintain or improve our current services and focus resources to address some of most pressing needs: closing economic disparities, racial equity, clean energy, biking and walking, job training programs, quality affordable housing, addressing climate change, improving our environment, preventing violence and improving police practices and our criminal justice practices, and investing in the roads and bridges we depend on, including \$10 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge.
- 2) The Council has approved the ordinance I authored that opens up more areas for people to operated limited production and processing and simplifies regulations about the size of commercial uses in general. In recent years, entrepreneurs have opened small-scale establishments throughout the city that create cured meats, chocolate, beer, spirits, honey and other food and beverage products. This has helped fill commercial storefronts and provided uniqueness to Minneapolis. With the adopted changes, these types of businesses could now be established administratively, without a public hearing before the City Planning Commission.

- 3) On January 21 at Cabrini Church the city convened a meeting to present plans for changing the layout of Franklin Ave SE between Thornton and Emerald when Franklin is resurfaced late this summer. This segment of Franklin has generated a lot of concerns about traffic speeds and requests for traffic calming. It is also identified as a good corridor for bike lanes in the “Bridging the Gap” report that the Prospect Park neighborhood worked on with St. Anthony Park, and the Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan. This corridor is now a gap between several existing and planned bikeways, including bike lanes on Franklin Ave in St. Paul, bike lanes on 27th Ave SE, the East River Pkwy trail, and future protected bike lanes on the Franklin Ave Bridge. Currently, on-street parking is permitted on both sides of Franklin for most of the project corridor. In order to install dedicated bicycle lanes and establish consistent, standard, and narrow travel-lane widths (which have proven successful in reducing travel speeds), the City is proposing removing parking on both sides of the street. A parking study along Franklin Ave SE found that parking utilization is at 3 percent of total capacity, except near Cabrini during church services. Public Works is proposing an alternative solution to temporarily accommodate this high demand parking. To learn more visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/projects/WCMS1P-152870>. You may contact me or Simon Blenski (612-673-5012, [simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov)) with specific questions about the design. There will be another public meeting about the resurfacing project itself and associated assessments on March 8, at 6:30 PM at the Luxton Rec Center, 112 Williams Av SE. The Project Manager for the resurfacing project is Chris Trembath (612-919-1196 or [Chris.Trembath@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Chris.Trembath@minneapolismn.gov)).
- 4) I was glad to see that the Governor’s 2016 state bonding proposal of \$1.4 billion in state funding includes the city’s top priority for state funding: \$31.875 million in funding for 10<sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge rehabilitation. The city has already set aside \$10 million to help preserve and maintain this critical link between Southeast Minneapolis and the West Bank.
- 5) On January 11 the City Planning Commission approved the plans for a new 195 unit apartment building that will be located at 117 27th Ave SE. (and extends to also include 2512 Essex St SE). The project would include the demolition of all the older industrial buildings on the site and construction of a new 6 story apartment building. The full staff report can be found at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-171776.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-171776.pdf). I was delighted to learn that the approval was subject to conditions that include: a pedestrian/bike trail that will be maintained for year-round access (including snow and ice removal) and open to the public. In addition, a lighting plan shall be submitted prior to building permit issuance to show that the trail will be adequately lighted and in compliance city lighting standards. I expect this to be on the Zoning and Planning Committee agenda on February 4<sup>th</sup> and approved by the full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) After a year-long process of review by staff and neighborhood organizations, the Council has approved a policy change related to unexpended Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. Among other provisions, the new policy will require the city Neighborhood and Community Relations staff to prepare a status report of each neighborhood’s Phase I and Phase II Plans in chronological order based on the date of Phase II plan approval. If the neighborhood has not expended at least 85% and contracted at least 95% of the original plan allocation plus program income (for both Phase I and Phase II) by the seven-year anniversary of the Phase II plan’s approval by the City Council, the neighborhood must submit a plan for achieving thresholds within one year; or complete a robust neighborhood review process to affirm or revise current strategies; or request a waiver. The full policy is available here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150504>.
- 7) The City Council has unanimously approved the Shelter ordinance amendments I coauthored with my colleague Lisa Bender. This mean the city will now allow small *emergency shelters* in many more places in the city and allow larger *overnight shelters* as a primary use in only the C2, C4, Downtown and Industrial Living districts. It will allow emergency shelters in most zoning districts, but with the number of beds defined by the zoning density, and will never be greater than 32. In addition, I am authoring an ordinance that will require emergency shelters to be licensed by the City’s Health Department (which is already responsible for hotels, motels, boarding houses and etc. through the Food, Lodging and Pools division). I look forward to seeing these ordinances pass the Council early next year. I am hopeful that this easing of regulations will result in additional high quality, new shelters being open in the city.
- 8) The Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee has passed a resolution I co-authored with Council members Cano and A. Johnson that directs staff to develop a Green Zone Policy that the City Council could adopt in late 2016 and creates a Green Zone Policy Task Force comprised of community leaders (e.g., residents, businesses, environmental justice advocates, etc.) and City staff to lead this initiative. This is an initiative approved as part of our Climate Action Plan. It is intended to not only address sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reductions, but also to address equity. More details can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151461>.
- 9) 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.