

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 11-28-16

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Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Thursday, December 15, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Election 2017
- 2) City Budget
- 3) Youth Outreach Workers
- 4) Group Violence Intervention Program
- 5) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 6) Neighborhood Funding
- 7) ADA Action Plan
- 8) Energy Efficiency Winners in Ward 2
- 9) Homegrown Food Council Open House
- 10) Funding for Affordable Housing
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I was disappointed and worried by many of the results of this year's election, especially at the federal level. It is hard not to see this as a setback to so much progress we have been making on so many issues in recent years. It is a source of comfort to live in a city, community and neighborhood filled with caring, open-minded, accepting, supportive, and engaged people who share a commitment to making this a more just, inclusive, open, peaceful, loving and environmentally sustainable place for everyone. It is more important than ever that we commit to continuing to make progress where we can: at the local level. I sincerely thank everyone for voting on November 8th and to everyone who ran for office, volunteered to support candidates and got involved in campaigns of all kinds. Your participation in our democracy is both inspiring and vital to the health of our city, state and country. I offer special gratitude to our elections staff. This year we saw many improvements to our voting processes. I commend our elections department, the many election judges and all elections professionals who worked hard not only on Election Day, but also throughout the early-voting period leading up to the election to ensure the best election possible. While numbers are still coming in, turnout in the Second Ward was very high as usual. I congratulate all those who ran for office and especially those who won. I look forward to continuing working with Congressman Keith Ellison, State Senators Patricia Torres Ray and Kari Dzedzic and State Representative Jim Davnie. I also look forward to working with the newly elected and returning school board members and with newly elected State Representative Ilhan Omar, whose historic victory as the first Somali-American elected to the state house is one uplifting and inspiring bright spot in this dark election. Another bright spot is the passage of the Vote Yes for Kids ballot initiative, which will help ensure that our schools have the resources they need. I will do whatever I can to assist all of those elected yesterday in serving you and work cooperatively with them to make sure we are all doing everything we can to benefit the city and the communities we represent. Clearly we have a great deal of work ahead of us. I am committed to work harder than ever to make this a better, more loving, peaceful, just and sustainable city for everyone.

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612-673-3500.

- 2) The budget process for this year is well underway and now the proposed budget is available online in an interactive format at <https://minneapolismn.opengov.com/transparency>. Some of the most significant changes to this year's proposed budget include \$1.3 million for 15 new police officers, including three for a new mental health co-responder 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; \$400,000 for five additional firefighters, and \$14.5 million to support affordable housing development. There will be two public comment hearings on the budget: at **6:05 pm November 30th** and **6:05 pm December 7th** both in Room 317, City Hall. Visit www.minneapolismn.gov/budget for more information on the budget proposal and process.
- 3) I was happy to see coverage of the Youth Coordinating Board's Youth Outreach Worker program featured in a local newspaper last month (<http://www.citypages.com/news/straight-talking-youth-workers-save-lives-keep-peace-in-streets-and-classrooms/399543511>). This is a program that I have followed, supported, and helped guide since my first term in office. Now, as chair of the Youth Coordinating Board, it has been gratifying to see it expand from street outreach in downtown, into some of our schools and neighborhoods. In October the Youth Coordinating Board reviewed the results of an evaluation of the School Outreach program done by an outside agency, Rainbow Research. You can find the recent evaluation report and more information here <http://www.ycb.org/schooloutreachteam>
- 4) The City has been awarded a two year grant of \$325,000 to help us develop and begin implementation of a Minneapolis version of the National Network for Safe Communities' Group Violence Intervention (GVI) program to reduce group involved homicide and gun violence. You can learn more about the model here <https://nnscommunities.org/our-work/strategy/group-violence-intervention>.
- 5) The first public hearing for the Intentional Community ordinance I'm authoring with my colleague Council Member Goodman was held on November 1, where it was unanimously recommended for approval by the planning commission. The ordinance would allow people who register as an intentional community to have the number of people who can safely share a home, regardless of their relatedness. You can read a draft of the amendments and find more information under "Current Projects" at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward2/index.htm>. Because we are also changing the housing maintenance code (in addition to the zoning code), there will be another public hearing at the Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services committee on **November 29th at 1:30 pm**.
- 6) The current funding source used to support community engagement and neighborhood organizations is scheduled to end in 2020. To help us better prepare for the changes ahead and develop future funding options, the Council approved an engagement plan to help identify and develop recommendations by March 30, 2018. The purpose of the plan is to: 1) ensure participation of neighborhood organization leaders, cultural community leaders, City leadership and other stakeholders in the process; 2) provide clear and ongoing communication with neighborhood organizations, residents, and City leadership on the development of Neighborhoods 2020 recommendations and how these tie into the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement and Neighborhood and Community Relations department plans; 3) develop consensus around recommendations for roles and responsibilities of funded neighborhood organizations, and the roles and responsibilities of the City in responding to and working with neighborhood organizations; and, 4) ensure a smooth transition of Community Participation Program funding after 2020. To read about the plan and learn more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-188366>
- 7) The City Council is poised to approve a revamped ADA implementation plan by the end of the year. The draft plan (you can find here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/services/WCMSP-183897>) is currently being reviewed by our advisory committees and community members. I expect it to come forward to a council committee at the end of November with some modifications based on this input.

- 8) I was delighted to see that 2 of the 3 award winners for high-performing large commercial buildings at the Building Energy Challenge Awards ceremony went to Second Ward properties. Congratulations both to Shriners Hospital on East River Parkway, for being the business category winner, and to Days Hotel on University Avenue for winning in the hospitality category. Shriners achieved energy reductions, in part, through improvements in lighting technology after replacing their parking ramp lights with LEDs controlled by motion sensors. LED projects in the lobby and elevator allowed them to remove an expensive and hot transformer and run cooling fans less often. I was also delighted to see that the Days Hotel on University Avenue was given an award for significantly high performance in energy reductions. It sounds like many, if not most, of their reductions came from proactive staff willing and able to implement small but meaningful strategies to conserve energy and water use. For instance, it is common practice in the winter for heat to be turned down soon after checkouts to conserve energy.
- 9) Please join the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council in celebrating another year of promoting healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods on **Thursday, December 1st** from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, at Seward Montessori, 2309 28th Ave South. The event will feature a brief program including remarks from local notables, the 2016 Homegrown Heroes awards and a "State of the Plate" and 2016 Homegrown Highlights presentations from the Food Council. It will begin with an information fair and reception, including opportunities to provide feedback to the Food Council on local food policy priorities. You can also register to be part of the information fair component of our annual open house. For more information visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-187360?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term.
- 10) Last month the City Council approved more than \$9 million in affordable housing investments throughout Minneapolis from the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit programs for 2016. Among the approved projects was the Aeon Prospect Park project at 3001 4th St SE. It has been awarded \$450,772 for construction of a mixed income apartment building for families. Aeon will use the funds to help build a five story 70 unit apartment complex one block from the Green Line's Prospect Park Station. This will provide permanent supportive housing to 7 households with dependent children who have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The elevator, building design, and unit layout will implement Universal Design strategies throughout and the first floor will include community rooms for general resident use; a fitness room and bike storage. The exterior design will be reviewed with the neighborhood design committee. New, wider sidewalks, improved lighting, tot lot, pedestrian benches, and bike racks will be included and the project will comply with Green Communities Criteria.
- 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.