

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood March 7, 2017

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Working for a Minneapolis where each of us has the freedom and opportunity to reach our individual potentials while caring for one another, improving our environment and promoting social well-being.

Focused not only on our immediate needs, but also on the future we want for ourselves, our children and for generations to come.

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

**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:
Thursday, March 16th, 9:30-11:00am
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

- 1) Neighborhood Funding Restored
- 2) Waste Tire Resolution
- 3) Workers Day
- 4) 2016 Resident Survey
- 5) Transgender Equity Council
- 6) Tip Penalty
- 7) Council Action on Immigration
- 8) One Minneapolis Fund
- 9) Energy Benchmarking Report
- 10) Fighting Preemption by the State
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On February 10 the Council unanimously approved a motion that I have been working on for months to restore \$9,141,951 to Phase II Neighborhood Revitalization (NRP) plans over the next four years. This represents the \$10 million frozen by the City Council in 2010 less the \$858,049 returned to neighborhoods in 2012-2013. This is possible, in part, because the revenue from the specially approved "Common Project" TIF District has been higher than expected, and is expected to be higher than projected for the next few years, before it expires in 2020. In 2016 it yielded over \$10 million more than projected or needed. The Southeast Como Improvement Association can expect to receive **\$122,372**. You can find the full staff report and payment schedules for all neighborhoods here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-193147>.
- 2) The Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee unanimously voted for a resolution I authored to curb the use of waste tires on playgrounds and athletic fields. Thank you to Play it Safe Minneapolis for bringing this issue forward, to our Community Environmental Advisory Commission and Public Health Advisory Committee for looking into it and making recommendations, and to our partners at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Public Schools for their willingness to engage in this discussion. The resolution that will be considered by the full Council on March 10 prohibits the use of City funds for the installation or replacement of any facilities using waste tire and encourages others to discontinue the use of waste tire materials in Minneapolis. You can find the resolution and more information here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194284>.
- 3) Tomorrow, **March 8**, will mark what I hope will be our first annual Worker's Day at City Hall. Modeled, partially, after what has been an annual event for years, Business Day at City Hall, this event will give council members, city staff and the Mayor the opportunity to meet with and have focused discussions on worker issues and needs. I thank Council Member Bender's office for taking the lead on this and look forward to a participating in a productive series of meetings on the 8th.
- 4) The results of the 2016 Resident Survey are available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/coordinator/rm/Monitoring/ResidentSurvey/index.htm

- 5) The Council, with my strong support, has approved the establishment of a permanent Transgender Equity Council to serve as an advisory board to the City Council on matters of importance to the Transgender community. You can find the details at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-193269>
- 6) This month I was able to join a meeting with Saru Jayaraman, from the Food and Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of "Forked: A New Standard for American Dining." She made a powerful case for why a tip penalty should not be considered in any minimum wage law, just like it is currently excluded in 7 states that have minimum wage laws, including Minnesota where we have a healthy and thriving restaurant industry. She encourages us to consider the power imbalance between tippers and servers, 70 percent of whom are female, and the fact that the restaurant industry generates five times the average number of sexual harassment claims per worker in places with a tip penalty. It has also made me only more convinced that I cannot support a tip penalty as any part of a City minimum wage ordinance. I do, however, support a gradual phase in, with technical and other supports for smaller businesses. I am committed to finding a solution that will support and lift up all low wage workers while also protecting our independent and small businesses from undue hardship.
- 7) To respond to the disturbing Presidential actions related to immigration and refugee resettlement, the Council took comments and action in February. After hearing from our City Attorney and community agencies, including Navigate MN, the American Civil Liberties Union, and about how these new rules will impact our City and how we can help respond to better protect our people, The Council passed a resolution condemning the January 2017 Presidential Executive Orders, and approved establishing a Sanctuary City Task Force that will bring forward a set of recommendations by March 31, to strengthen city-level policies, programs, and resources to better protect and defend the rights of refugees, immigrant families, Muslim residents and others from unfair deportation, acts of bigotry and hate, and persecution. We will also begin work to create a local immigration legal defense fund, and review the President's January 2017 Executive Orders for potential litigation and defense strategies to protect the City and our residents. I fully support these actions and will continue the fight against what I see as this administration's immoral, cruel, and likely illegal behavior towards some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and our world. For a more of my thoughts on this see: <https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/722858671209828>
- 8) The Council has approved issuing a request for proposals for the 2017 One Minneapolis Fund to promote leadership development and civic participation program. The One Minneapolis Fund is a City-funded grant program established in 2013 to support organizations serving under-represented communities in the city. The focus of the program is on leadership development and building civic engagement within those communities. Organizations eligible for the program are those which do not receive funding through the traditional neighborhood funding programs. For 2017, \$157,000 is available for programs that prepare leaders to serve on neighborhood and City boards and commissions and \$25,000 of the funds will be designated for City-initiated projects where organizations are asked to assist with outreach or other similar activities.
- 9) A new report was presented at the February 27 Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee that examined the electric, natural gas and water use of 264 commercial and 153 public properties in Minneapolis. This includes 107 million square feet of floor space and accounts for more than 8.1 million British Thermal Units of total energy use per year, which is the equivalent use of roughly 60 percent of the households in the city and represents 15 % of the city's total greenhouse gas emissions. The report estimates potential savings of more than 108,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually and \$27 million per year on energy costs if there was a 15 percent reduction in energy consumption. Hospitals, places of worship and offices show the potential for the most savings.
- 10) The state legislature is considering a host of bills that would preempt local action on issues ranging from wages and workplace protections to single-use bags. The City has stood firm against these bills. I have personally testified against the preemption bill on single-use bags, which would invalidate the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance I authored last year. I hope that Minneapolis residents will reach out to Governor Dayton and urge him to veto all preemption bills if they pass the legislature, to defend local control.
- 11) Visit the City's website, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions for City boards and commissions.