

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood
May 2, 2017**

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
<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>

*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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NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612-
673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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

- 1) Green Zones
- 2) Water Tires Resolutions
- 3) Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
- 4) Regulations for Fraternities and Sororities
- 5) Short-Term Food Ordinance
- 6) Yard waste
- 7) 1721 Como Ave SE
- 8) Blue Door Outdoor Seating
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In April, the Council adopted our first-ever Green Zones policy and established two Green Zones and two pilot areas within them. Green Zones are a way to make targeted environmental and health investments in areas that have historically faced environmental injustice and racism. Two Green Zones have been established --- one Northern and one Southern with pilot areas in each that will get the first focus. The northern pilot includes the McKinley and Hawthorne neighborhoods and both sides of the river in north/northeast. The Southern Pilot includes Ventura Village and East Phillips and Little Earth. This summer we will begin the work to establish exactly what the interventions will be in each of these zones. A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers and staff who served on the Greens Zones work group who analyzed the data, debated, discussed and drafted the policy. I am glad to have reached this milestone, and proud to have helped shepherd this complex and important policy through the Council. It's both a win for the environment and for equity, and I hope that it will lead us to do significantly more work to improve the environment and people's health in some of the most overburdened communities in Minneapolis and serve as a model for others to follow in the future.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-197530.pdf>

- 2) Both the City Council and the Park and Recreation Board passed resolutions related to the use of waste tires on playgrounds and athletic fields in April. I was glad to see that the Park Board has committed to at least consider alternative materials in new and rehabilitated synthetic turf fields. Additionally they will report to the Council's Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee during athletic field project scoping, research alternatives to poured-in-place playground surfacing; and install health and safety information signs at all their synthetic athletic fields. The Council resolution prohibits the use of City funds for the installation or replacement of any facilities using waste tire and encourages others to discontinue the use the waste materials in Minneapolis. In Minneapolis, the School and Park Boards are considered independent boards and the city resolution falls short of prohibiting the use waste tires mulch and crumb by them as well as private and other public entities. The Park Board resolution is here

<http://minneapolisparksmn.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1685&Inline=True> , and the City action here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/%20legislation/WCMSP-194284> . I will be evaluating the possibility of drafted an ordinance prohibiting waste tires from being used as ground cover or infill in the months ahead.

- 3) In April the City Council approved \$1.5 million for a new Minneapolis Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund to assist non-profit housing providers to acquire and preserve NOAH rental property in Minneapolis. NOAH generally refers to unsubsidized multifamily rental housing affordable to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income (\$51,480 for a family of four.) Rents in NOAH units average between \$550 and \$1,200 per month. Minneapolis has about 23 percent of the NOAH units in the seven-county metropolitan area, or about 38,000 units. The strong real estate market and low rental vacancy rate (2.7% regionally) has made these properties more attractive to investors, leading to increased sales, higher rents and displaced tenants who cannot afford increased rents. You can learn more here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmosp-191816.pdf>
- 4) The Council, with my guarded support, has approved amendment to the zoning code that cautiously opens up more potential locations for fraternities and sororities close to campus and on high density zoning lots and districts ordinance. I only supported this ordinance when the language was amended to make it clear that the area where they would be allowed was restricted to within one-half (1/2) mile of the educational facility served and that for the purposes of the University of Minnesota campus, one-half (1/2) mile will be measured from the center of the intersection of 15th and University Avenues Southeast. You can find the revised ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-181505>
- 5) The Council has approved the ordinance amendment to the Food Code that I coauthored with Council Member Palmisano streamlining our short-term and seasonal short-term food permits by eliminating Farmers Market specific licenses and reclassifying them to only need one Seasonal Food Permit in order to operate at various locations. You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194568>.
- 6) 2017 Yard Waste Collection. The season has begun for 2017 City of Minneapolis collection of leaves, brush and other yard trimmings. Yard trimmings and leaves must be in compostable bags – paper or compostable plastic – or unbagged in a reusable container at least 26 inches high with sturdy handles. Yard waste is not allowed in City-provided carts or bins. Set prepared yard waste at your alley or curb next to your garbage cart by 6 a.m. on garbage day. Bundles should weigh less than 40 pounds, be less than three feet long with branched less than three inches in diameter and must be bundled with string or twine.
- 7) 1721 Como. The Planning Commission has approved the construction of a new three-story mixed use building at 18th and Como with one or two commercial/office tenants on the first floor and three dwelling units on floors two and three. There would be one four-bedroom units, one three-bedroom unit, and one two bedroom unit, each of the dwellings will be two-story units. The approved design included a cut to the corner of the building at 18th and Como Ave SE. They also made some minor changes to the windows and, as a condition of approval, staff required a more robust landscape plan and taller screening for the parking lot. The drainage and bicycle racks for the office/commercial space will be reviewed by Public Works and are under their jurisdiction.
- 8) James Brown of Brownsmith Restoration application for variances to allow for an outdoor café at the Blue Door restaurant located at 1514 Como Avenue SE. is set to come up at the May 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment City. Staff is recommending that the board deny all the variances.
- 9) 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.