

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 5-18-17

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:**  
**Thursday, June 1st, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

### **Cam Gordon**

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### **Items:**

- 1) Green Zones
- 2) Water Tires Resolutions
- 3) Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
- 4) Co-responder Pilot Project.
- 5) Short-Term Food Ordinance
- 6) WBCDC Riverside Homes Preservation Meeting.
- 7) Tesoro Extended Hours
- 8) 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.igmp.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) In April the Council authorized a contract with Hennepin County for Psychiatric Emergency (COPE) mental health professionals who will participate in our Co-Responder pilot program for mental health crisis response. In our pilot program, a specially trained patrol officer will be paired with a mental health professional to respond to 911 calls involving people who may be emotionally disturbed or suffering a mental health crisis of some kind. There will be three officers and two mental health professionals assigned to these teams who will work Monday – Friday, from 10:00am-6:00pm throughout the service areas of the Fifth and Third Precincts, with offices at the Fifth Precinct headquarters at 3101 Nicollet Ave.
- 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 reclassify them as a Seasonal Food Permit You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194568>.
- 6) The West Bank Community Development Corporation is working to secure funds to renovate and preserve 191 units, in 74 different buildings, in its Riverside Homes project on the West Bank. The homes are in a variety of locations in the neighborhood, in Ward 6 and Ward 2, including several near Riverside Park and all of the Riverbluff Townhomes in the northeast corner of the neighborhood. They are requesting a \$20 million tax exempt bond allocation, which would allow funders to use the investment to reduce their tax obligation. According to the proposal, work would be done on both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings and no residents would be displaced. I attended a meeting convened by the WBCDC, at my request, April 18, at the Cedar Commons at 2001 Riverside Avenue where WBCDC and Mutual Management where the proposal was dicusses and generally supported by the community members in attendance.
- 7) There was also discussion following the Riverside Homes discussion **April 18** about the request from the owners of the gas station and convenience store at 2517 Riverside Avenue to extend their hours. The group supported this change and I expect the Council to approve it in the near future.
- 8) 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.