

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood June 6, 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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Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu
612-673-3737;

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-3737

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

**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:
Thursday, June 8th, 9:30-11:00am
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

- 1) Minimum Wage
- 2) Tobacco Regulations
- 3) Mental Health Co-Responders
- 4) Commercial Waste Study
- 5) Northern Metals
- 6) Preemption on Bag Policies
- 7) Free Lead Testing
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has received a report from staff on the minimum wage, which you can read at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-199132.pdf>. It provides a wealth of information including a summary the public comments we have received on this topic, and descriptions of the policy choices before the Council. Following up on the report, on May 26 the Council unanimously passed a staff direction you can find at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-199379> that answers some of the policy questions related to the minimum wage. Among those answers: the target wage is **\$15/hour**, we will **not** adopt a tip penalty, we **will** index our wage to inflation, and allow a 90-day **training wage** for people under 20. At a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole on June 6, the City Attorney's Office presented a draft ordinance. The final draft ordinance will be discussed, considered and potentially amended at the council's Committee of the Whole at 10am on Wednesday, **June 28** and the full City Council will act on the ordinance at its regular meeting 9:30 a.m. Friday, **June 30**. You can find this and additional information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minimumwage/MINIMUM-HOME>
- 2) I have given notice of intent with my colleague Lisa Bender to change our tobacco regulations. Specifically, I am looking to included menthol tobacco products among the rest of the flavored tobacco products which have been restricted to tobacco shops. I also see this as an opportunity to clarify this ordinance and make it more enforceable.
- 3) The City is contracting 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 this program, which I pushed for last year, 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.

A Council committee has received the final report of a Commercial Waste Collection Evaluation Study that identifies ways the City can reduce waste from the commercial, industrial and multifamily (or CIM) sectors. We currently have almost no information about the CIM waste stream and don't know how much of what kinds of waste are generated, and where it ends up or what rates people are paying for what services. This contrasts with the City's work on waste from small residential sources, where we are making great strides in reducing waste and increasing diversion through robust recycling and composting programs. This study lays out a range of ideas worth exploring to help us get most, if not all, of the waste recycled or composted and diverted away from the garbage burner and landfills, create a more transparent system with a higher rate of reporting on what is collected, what happens to it and what it costs ratepayers; and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and truck trips on our streets. To that end, I passed a staff direction that moves this work forward as part of the Zero Waste plan, and will result in another touch-point for policymakers in September. I am glad that my office has been a part of this work since its inception. Please check out the study at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-198737> and let me know what you think if you have time.

- 4) The City Council has accepted \$600,000 (over 3 years) from the Consent Decree with Northern Metals. The court's Decree stipulates that the \$200,000 a year for 3 years shall be used solely for mitigation projects in North and Northeast Minneapolis that "include projects in the impacted neighborhoods to (1) identify and educate at-risk residents on asthma triggers; (2) enroll families with children suffering from poorly controlled asthma in a new asthma trigger mitigation program; and (3) implement community and block-by-block blood lead level screening events in cooperation with local clinics which will offer follow-up venous blood screening as needed; and (4) identify and connect affected individuals with resources to help reduce environmental exposure to lead." We also passed a resolution that calls on the State to allocate the \$1 million civil penalty they received, not to the state general fund, but to projects that serve the area residents who have borne the brunt of the negative impacts associated with the presence of Northern Metals; and directs our Staff to work with community members from North and Northeast Minneapolis to plan for the use of the \$600,000 earmarked for community health projects as well as any additional funding that comes to the City from the consent decree with Northern Metals. You read the full resolution and Consent Decree and can find more information here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-198419>
- 5) I was disappointed to learn that the state legislature and Governor approved a new state law preempting Minnesota cities from banning the distribution of single use plastic carry-out retail bags. The new state law preempts "bans" but not "fees." So the fee section of the City's law remains unaffected and I know that some stores are implementing that portion of the ordinance requiring a fee for paper bags that was not preempted. I commend those establishments and all of you who are already doing more to bring your own bags. In the days ahead I will be working with Council Member Abdi Warsame, who co-authored the original ordinance with me, as well as with City staff and my other colleagues to amend our ordinance to fit within the constraints imposed by the Governor and state legislative majority.
- 6) Children and pregnant or nursing women can have their blood tested for lead at free events this summer. In 2016, 158 children in Minneapolis had lead poisoning. Lead poisoning may damage nervous systems, slow a child's growth, damage hearing, cause aggressive behavior problems, reduce IQ and make it harder to concentrate or do well in school. Lead in pregnant women can be transferred to the fetus, and lead in a nursing mother can transfer to the child. Lead can also cause miscarriages and reproductive problems in adults. Lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Free lead testing events in June will be held at Folwell Neighborhood Resource Fair, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 15, 1315 Penn Ave. N. and at the HUB Healthy Homes Health Fair 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 22, 3120 Washburn Ave. N.
- 7) 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.