

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 6-15-17

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, June 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

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

*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.*

If you need this material translated or in
an alternative format, please contact
NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612- 673-
3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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,
llama 612- 673-3737

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

Items:

- 1) Minimum Wage
- 2) Green Business Awards to Longfellow Businesses
- 3) Menthol Tobacco Ordinance
- 4) Bag Ordinance Partially Preempted
- 5) Racial Equity Update
- 6) Bonding Bill
- 7) 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/wcmSP-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, the Council unanimously passed a staff direction you can find at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-199379> that clarified the Council's intention to pass a minimum wage ordinance with a target wage of \$15/hour tied to without a tip penalty, indexed to inflation, and with allow a 90-day training wage for people under 20. A draft ordinance is now being prepared and a public hearing will be held 3:30 p.m. **Thursday, June 22** on the draft municipal minimum wage ordinance. That draft will be discussed, considered and potentially amended at the council's Committee of the Whole at 10 a.m. 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 was delighted to see that two Second Ward businesses received 2017 Minneapolis Green Business Awards for Clean Air Projects in Pollution Reduction and Energy Efficiency. **Elite Cleaners**, located at 3101 Minnehaha Ave, was awarded for switching away from using perc in their dry cleaning operation after learning about the potentially harmful effects of the chemical. The change away from perc was made possible with additional assistance from Environmental Initiative who came forward to assist with funding to make the project happen. My thanks and congratulations go to owners, Pinkey and Samir Patel, for their investment in both time and money to make the project happen. **Longfellow Market**, owned by Joel Ahlstrom and located at 3754 E Lake Street was awarded for reducing 63,000 lbs of carbon emissions every year because of the energy efficiency upgrades they made last year. This reduction is the equivalent of 4 homes worth of annual electricity.

- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) On June 14 the Council was presented with an update on our efforts to lead by example in addressing institutional racism in our city government and incorporating Racial Equity in all of our work. This work has been led by the Office of Equity and Inclusion and has included development of an extensive and impressive internal “racial equity toolkit” website to provide resources and tools for city departments and staff ready to incorporate a racial equity lens to their daily work. A number of staff development opportunities have been provided including a Foundations in Equity series that helps employees to better value, respect and leverage diversity. The Office also helped foster a culture of inclusivity throughout City government by supporting the work throughout the enterprise, including in: the Neighborhood and Community Relations’ (NCR) Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, the Minneapolis Police Department’s (MPD) Department of Justice initiative, the successful integration of equity data into our Green Zones initiative, the work of the Innovation Team focused on immigrant and minority owned businesses, the creation of an enterprise Engagement Design Team (EDT) that focuses on engagement from traditionally underrepresented communities, the addition of cultural agility and unconscious bias training within Human Resource offerings, the receipt of the ReCAST grant focused on communities experiencing stress and trauma, the addition of a racial equity lens in Public Works’ streets funding plan, and the integration of diverse artists to bridge the gaps in between tenants and our inspections staff within Regulatory Services. Next steps include the creation of an internal Racial Equity Steering Committee made of up city staff, approval of the City’s Racial Equity work plan, and the establishment of cross-departmental team of Equity Coordinators to serve as liaisons, facilitators and consultants to departments as they work to embed a racial equity lens as part of their core work. I expect that in the next few months more of this work will be shared on our public website and I am hoping to see the Council approve a Racial Equity Action plan, based on the work plan, next year. You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-200103>
- 6) On May 30, 2017, the Governor signed a Capital Investment (bonding) bill following a Special Session of the legislature and I was delighted to see that funding of \$31,875,000 for the 10th Avenue Bridge rehabilitation was included in the bill. This important, and well used Second Ward bridge over the Mississippi needs major rehabilitation to remain safe and sound for the future. Two other City bonding priorities were also fully funded: \$25 million for the 35W/Lake Street Transit/Access project and \$1 million for the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Restoration. The request for \$2.5M for the enhancement of the Emergency Operations and Training Facility was not funded.
- 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.