

Second Ward June 2017 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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Minimum Wage Ordinance Passes. On June 30, on an 11 to 1 vote, the City Council approved a new minimum wage ordinance for Minneapolis. It lays out a timeline to get almost all Minneapolis wage earners to \$15/hour indexed to inflation by July 2024 - within 5 years for businesses with over 100 employees and 7 years for smaller businesses. It offers no tip credit but allows a 90-day “training wage” less than the minimum wage for people under 20 who are participating in a city-recognized employment training or apprenticeship program. It does not include school district, state, federal or University of Minnesota workers, because the city has no authority to regulate those employers. The Council also committed to investing in a study and annual reports on impacts of the ordinance; we directed staff to prepare recommendations for creating a matching grant program to help qualifying small businesses pay for sewer access charges and Americans with Disability Act facility improvements; and we approved consulting with stakeholders in non-hospital residential health care enterprises to better understand, and possibly accommodate pressures unique to these health enterprises. Some people may not be fully satisfied with the result, but I am hopeful that everyone will make a good faith effort to implement it as best we can. The success of our City depends on a local economy that provides incomes that are sufficient to ensure decent and healthy lives for all our workers and our families. This will not only keep more money in our local economy and allow more parents to provide food and shelter for themselves and their children, but it will also directly address historic racial economic inequities that continue to plague our city and state. Of the City’s 311,000 workers about 71,000 will be positively affected by the increase, and workers of color will disproportionately benefit. Of Latino workers, 54% will benefit from the increased wages. Of black workers, 41% will benefit. Of white workers, 17% will benefit. I see this as a commitment we are making as a community to both our workers and our employers. As we embark on this transition, let’s support our local businesses more than ever and let’s keep investing in our workforce to make our city one of the best places to do business in in the country. You can find the staff report, final ordinance and a wealth of additional information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minimumwage/MINIMUM-HOME>

Selling and Sorting on Streets. The Council, with my support, has approved Council Member Andrew Johnson’s ordinance amendment that will allow licensed food vendors, including grocery stores, to sell non-potentially hazardous food from sidewalks. I am hopeful that this will open up new opportunities for some stores to expand sales and enliven our commercial corridors.

Tobacco Regulations. With my colleague Lisa Bender, I have introduced an ordinance to change our tobacco regulations to include menthol tobacco products in among the other flavored tobacco products, the sale of which is restricted to adult only tobacco shops. Health experts, including those at the Food and Drug Administration, have concluded that menthol tobacco poses a unique public

health threat due its association with youth smoking initiation and greater addiction. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention “Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year, or 1 of every 5 deaths.” Those who are able to avoid becoming addicted by age 21 are significantly less likely to become addicted later. The public hearing for the ordinance will be set for **July 24** at 1:30 pm. You can read more about the specific problems with menthol tobacco at <http://beautifullytruth.org/>.

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. 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 the 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. I am moving forward with an effort to amend the city ordinance so that a fee will be required for plastic as well as paper carry out bags so that it fits within the constraints imposed by the Governor and state legislative majority. I expect that the public hearing for this will occur in August and that the new ordinance will be approved by October 1st.

Renewable Energy for City Operations. The Council has authorized the City to participate in a new clean energy program offered by Xcel called “Renewable*Connect.” Under this authorization we will purchase up to 17.8 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of renewable electricity annually. Of this total, 14 million kWh will be purchased for the Convention Center and 3.8 million kWh will be purchased for the Water Treatment Plant. The City of Minneapolis currently uses 101 million kWh annually and only 0.4% (0.4 million kWh) can be counted as emission free renewable energy. This will bring the total renewable energy directly generated or purchased by the City to 18%. We will pay 7% to 12% more than the current price, which is an increase of less than 1% (an estimated \$52,800 for next year and \$112,000 for 2018) of the City’s total electricity charges.

100% Clean Electricity for City Operations. The Council has also taken a major step towards getting all of our electricity for City government facilities from clean, renewable sources within five years. This includes all the electricity the city purchases, including for street lights, signal lights, all City-owned buildings as well as our water plant. As part of the approved motion, staff will report back by August 28, with a preliminary analysis and recommendations for how to meet this goal that will look at current and projected usage of electricity over the next 10 years and out best options for getting clean, renewable energy in the short and long term. Options could include larger scale solar photovoltaic arrays on City owned land and structures; participating in more community solar gardens; the purchasing of renewable energy credits; pushing legislation to allow us to purchase power on the wholesale market; and, building our own renewable energy power on property we don’t own, including wind and solar power plants located outside the city.

Racial Equity Update. In June the Council was presented with an update on our efforts to lead by example in addressing institutional racism and incorporating racial equity in all of our work. This work is being led by the Office of Equity and Inclusion and includes development of an extensive and impressive internal “racial equity toolkit” website that provides resources and tools for city departments and staff. A number of staff development opportunities have also been provided including Foundations *in Equity* series that helps employees to better value, respect and leverage diversity. The Office has also helped foster a culture of inclusivity throughout City government by helping develop and implement significant policy changes throughout the enterprise, including the development of 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. In the months ahead the Office will create an internal Racial Equity Steering Committee made up of city staff, complete a Racial Equity Work Plan, and the establish a cross-departmental team of Equity Coordinators to serve as liaisons and consultants to departments as they work to use a racial equity lens in 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>

Verdict in Yanez Trial. I was extremely disappointed by the verdict in the Yanez trial regarding the killing of Philando Castile. If we study this trial I believe we will find institutional racism and racial bias woven throughout it, in the choices and decisions made by judge, lawyers and jurors as well as in the laws and policies relied on to operate our legal system. I believe that Philando Castile was needlessly killed, not just by one police officer, but by a flawed system that now has determined that the police officer’s actions were legal and condoned. I will continue to work to dismantle institutional racism and reform our criminal justice system to make racial justice and racial equity a more integral part of it, especially at the local level.

Sick and Safe Ordinance. The City’s Safe and Sick Time Ordinance took effect July 1. Employers with six or more workers will be required to provide time off at a minimum threshold of at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Employers with five or fewer workers must also provide sick time, but it may be unpaid. The goal of the ordinance is to protect public health and prevent workers from being penalized because of illness or a need to care for a sick loved one. People can call 311 or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/sicktimeinfo to ask a question or file a complaint. Unfortunately, in a lawsuit brought against the City of Minneapolis in the case of Minnesota Chamber of Commerce et al v. City of Minneapolis, Court File No. 27-cv-16-15051, the Hennepin County District Court issued a temporary injunction prohibiting the City of Minneapolis from enforcing the Sick and Safe Time Ordinance against any “employer resident

outside the geographic boundaries of the City.” This case is currently on appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

2017 State Capital Investment Bill. On May 30, the Governor signed a Capital Investment (bonding) bill and I was delighted to see that funding of \$31,875,000 for the 10th Avenue Bridge rehabilitation was included in it. 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.

2018 Bonding Priorities. In June the Council approved submitting the following with the state’s Minnesota Management and Budget Office as our state binding ranked request for next 2018: 1) Upper Harbor Terminal Redevelopment for \$14 million; 2) Emergency Operations and Training Facility: Phase II for \$2.5 million; 3) Central City Storm Tunnel Rehabilitation for \$19 million; and 4) Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock Redevelopment for \$1.5 million.

Small Business Assistance Grants. On June 30 the Council approved the next round of Business Technical Assistance Program (B-TAP) grants. The City of Minneapolis’ Business Technical Assistance Program (B-TAP) provides funding for business-consulting services that support new business development, retention, and growth. In 2016, the program assisted a diverse set of entrepreneurs, including: African Immigrant (18%), American Indian (3%), Asian (9%), Black/African American (31%), Latino/Hispanic (16%), and White (23%). In total, 40% of the businesses were female-owned and 60% male-owned. The 2017-19 contracts will be with Neighborhood Development Center, \$100,000; Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, \$45,000; Metropolitan Economic Development Association, \$55,000; Northside Economic Opportunity Network, \$85,000; Lake Street Council, \$20,000; African Economic Development Solutions, \$45,000; African Development Center, \$35,000; Small Business Development Center, \$20,000; Hmong American Partnership, \$35,000; Bii Gii Wiin Community Development Loan Fund, \$15,000; Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County, \$10,000; New American Development Center, \$10,000; West Broadway Business Association, \$15,000; and Bunker Labs Minneapolis \$10,000. The term of the contracts is 2 years. To learn more about this promising program visit

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-200511>

Green Business Awards. 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. 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.

National Night Out will be held on **Tuesday, August 1** this year. To register a National Night Out event and apply to close a street or alley you may go online here http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/publicworks/permits/events-management_residential-blockevents_apply or call 311. The deadline to apply for a free street or alley closure is July 18, from July 19-July 26 the cost is \$100. July 26 is the last day to apply for a national Night Out street closure.

Banking Options. In June, finance staff reported back on the motion I co-authored with Council Member Cano as part of the 2017 Budget approval process last December that directed staff to explore ways for the City to stop doing business with financial institutions that invest in the fossil fuel industry. You can find the staff report and presentation here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-200815>. In response I worked with Council Members Cano and Glidden to get the Council to approve two motions that could help move the city towards developing better and more responsible financial alternatives. The first calls for the city to develop a timeline and process for drafting a Socially Responsible Procurement and Contracting Policy for all goods and services procured by the City, including banking services. The second asks staff to recommend a timeline and costs for completing a study of the feasibility of establishing a publicly-owned banking operation with consideration of different scopes of services, including a smaller operation to serve targeted needs. I have long advocated for a broader policy on socially responsible purchasing and procurement and believe it could provide needed guidance for better contracts for all services including financial services. I am also convinced that a feasibility study, similar to the path that Santa Fe has followed, could be very useful before we take the next steps towards forming a municipal bank. To learn more about municipal banking visit http://www.publicbankinginstitute.org/intro_to_public_banking. To learn more about Santa Fe's progress see <http://bankingonnewmexico.org/what-is-a-public-bank/>

Annie Young Resolution. I was honored to be the lead author of a resolution honoring, thanking and celebrating the career and service of my good friend and colleague Annie Young, as well as proclaiming May 20, 2017 to be Annie Young Day in the City of Minneapolis. Annie has a long history as a community organizer/activist and environmental champion and is retiring this year after serving 7 terms on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. You can find the full text of the resolution here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-198833>

Gayle Prest Resolution. I had mixed feelings about drafting a resolution thanking Gayle Prest for her service as Sustainability Coordinator after she announced she was stepping down from that position. While I was honored to write the resolution, I'm sad to see Gayle go. She has been a great colleague and ally in my efforts to help making Minneapolis more sustainable since first taking office in 2006. I learned a great deal from her and wish her the best.

Green Zone Task Force. The City is seeking people to serve on our Southern Green Zones Task Force to develop a work plan for the Zone which includes the greater Phillips community and Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. The plan will identify actions that promote health and economic well-being using environmentally-beneficial strategies. The Task Force will meet from September 2017 through January 2018 to develop the plan, and may meet longer to support its. Community

members who live, work, worship and/or play within the Phillips and Cedar Riverside neighborhoods are needed who have been impacted by cumulative pollution, have expertise in environmental justice or environmentally friendly business practices. You can find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/policies/green-zones/. Applications are due by **July 26**. Questions can be directed to Kelly Muellman at kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov.

Hotline to Report Hate Crimes. The City has a new hotline for reporting hate crimes, which are harassing behaviors motivated by prejudice. To access the hotline, call 311 if you are from within the city or 612-673-3000 statewide. The 311 hotline will be answered 7 a.m.-7 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends. Those with a report to make can also call the Department of Justice at 612-664-5600. As always, in the case of immediate physical violence, property damage or threats, people should call 911.

Commercial Waste Study. 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 best practices from a number of other cities that have taken steps to address CIM waste. The ideas range from better enforcing our existing ordinances, to completely taking over service to the CIM sector and providing it as a City utility, as we do for 1-4 unit residential buildings. I am very interested in using this study as a jumping-off point to further explore the options it lays out, and move forward with implementing something in the next year or so. Whatever we do, I want to see it result in, first, a very high diversion rate, where most, if not all, of the waste is recycled or composted and diverted away from the garbage burner and landfills; second, a much more transparent system with a higher rate of reporting on what is collected, what happens to it and what it costs ratepayers; and, third, a system with higher transportation benefits, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and fewer 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.

Northern Metals Settlement. The City Council has formally accepted \$600,000 (over 3 years) from the Consent Decree with Northern Metals and approved a resolution I co-authored, with Council Member Cano. 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." The resolution that was passed, pointed out that the resolved legal settlement included a total of and calls on the State to allocate the \$1 million civil penalty not to the state general fund but to projects that serve the residents of North and Northeast Minneapolis who have borne the brunt of the negative impacts associated with the presence of Northern Metals near their communities and directed the Minneapolis Health Department 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. You read the full resolution and Consent Decree and can find more information here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-198419>

Collaborative Safety Strategies. The Council has approved funding for a set of community driven public safety initiatives. The ideas were generated through a participatory process led through the Mayor and Coordinator's offices in two specific areas, one on West Broadway Avenue with a focus on the corridor between Lyndale Avenue North and Girard Avenue North and, the other, in the neighborhood in and around the Little Earth of United Tribes community in East Phillips. The city used technical assistance from Cities United, an organization dedicated to supporting mayors in reducing gun violence, primarily among black men and boys between the ages of 18-24, to build a framework to gather, review and select proposals. For more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-199814.pdf> and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-199827>

Blueprint for Equitable Engagement Dashboard. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has used the approved Blueprint for Equitable Engagement plan to create a web-based "Blueprint Dashboard to share data related to the five blueprint overarching strategies. You can find it here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement>

Community Connections Learning Labs. Starting in July The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department will be offering special classes open to city and neighborhood staff, as well as board members and volunteers who wish to include more diversity in neighborhood work as well as in leadership and decision making positions. The Community Connections Learning Lab Series is a set of eight classes intended to help participants understand equitable community engagement, learn best practices and more about some of the cultural communities in Minneapolis. One series will offer 90 minute labs in the afternoon at a City owned location from July through October. Another will offer them in the evenings from July through December at a community location. Participants can pick and choose which classes to attend. For more see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/WCMSP-201120>

One Minneapolis Fund Grants. The Council has approved the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission's recommendations to fund projects in 10 organizations, for a total of \$157,000, that help recruit and prepare residents, including people of color and renters, to serve on city advisory boards and neighborhood organizations and improve civic participation for specific targeted audiences. The grantees are The Lake Street Council, One Family One Community, Urban Homeworks, Lao Assistance Center, Project Diva, Neighborhood Youth Academy, Pangea World Theater, Courageous heARTS, Cedar Cultural Center and Youthlink.

Public Health Advisory Committee Appointment. After receiving applications from a number very well qualified and outstanding Ward 2 residents, I have decided to appoint KJ Starr as the new Ward 2 Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) member. KJ lives in the Seward neighborhood and has a master's degree in public health and a law degree. She has worked in a variety of public health capacities including as a researcher on public health policy for the Minnesota State House Research division, and most recently as a program evaluator working in the Office of the Legislative Auditor. This was a very difficult decision for me and I want to thank all the wonderful Second Ward people who applied to serve on this committee.

Pedestrian Advisory Committee. My thanks and congratulations go to Second Ward residents, Aaron Berger and Julia Tabbut, for their willingness to serve on the City's Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Both were appointed to two year terms in June. Julia has a long history of membership, advocacy and hard work on the committee and Aaron is an impressive new appointee.

Workforce Development Board. The City Council, with my full support, has approved the 2017 appointments our workforce board that helps oversee employment and training activities for the City. This includes the reappointment of 3 Second Ward neighbors, Elizabeth Campbell, Dan McConnell and Steven Kuntz. I am grateful for the time, energy and commitment these three have made to the Board in the past and I look forward to working with them during their next 3-year term that began July 1st. To learn more about the Workforce Development Board visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/MWC>.

MPHA Adopts Guiding Principles. The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) Board of Commissioners has unanimously adopted a set of "Guiding Principles for Redevelopment and Capital Investments at MPHA." The Guiding Principles (available online at www.MPHAOnline.org/GuidingPrinciples) include a commitment to inform and engage residents at every stage and to try to avoid permanent displacement of any resident. This will likely be one step in a larger discussion about how improvements and investments will be made to MPHA properties in the future, including at Glendale Townhomes in Ward 2. MPHA estimates that there is \$127 million of deferred needs for all its properties in the City. They get about \$10 million in annual capital funding from the federal government and, after approving the Guiding Principles, the MPHA Board approved investing \$1 million from the agency's reserves to establish a "working capital fund." This fund will support a detailed analysis of MPHA buildings, and allow MPHA to begin exploring how all available tools—including bonding, low-income tax credits, and enhanced city and state financial support—might play a role in preserving and improving their properties in Minneapolis.

New Resilience Office staff. As part of The 100 Resilient Cities grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the City Coordinator has hired Kate Knuth to be the City's chief resilience officer. This new grant funded position will help us prepare for challenges like aging infrastructure, natural disasters, racial inequities, weather events and climate change. Minneapolis was named part of the 100 Resilient Cities (RC) network in May of 2016 along with 99 other cities including London, New York, Bangkok, Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle. I look forward to

working on this effort and hope that will support implementation of already existing city policies and plans, like the Climate Action Plan and Green Zones Policies, and develop new initiatives to mitigate and fight Climate change and strengthen the health and well-being of all our residents, especially those who are most vulnerable. You can learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMSP-200572>

STEP-UP Interns. More than 1,700 Minneapolis people aged 14-21 started working as STEP-UP interns in June at more than 230 participating companies, government agencies and nonprofits throughout the Twin Cities metro area. I believe that this carefully planned work experience and training is enormously valuable to helping close employment disparities and preparing our young people for meaningful careers. Unfortunately, just as the program was getting underway we learned that the funding STEP-UP receives from the State Youth at Work Grant provided by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for youth jobs was cut by \$500,000 over 2 years. This is a 33% reduction in State funding for the program compared to past years. Staff are working to minimize the impact from these budget cuts and, although no one will be denied the work experience, some hours will be reduced. To learn more about STEP-UP, visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/step-up_home.

Clean Energy Report. The 2016 Clean Energy Partnership Annual Report has been completed and is available online. The report contains eight sections, which correspond to eight metrics that were approved by the Partnership Board as being critical areas of measurement in tracking progress toward Partnership goals. According to the most recently available data, 2015 citywide greenhouse gas emissions are down 17.4% from 2006 levels, surpassing the 2015 reduction goal of a 15% reduction. You can find the report at <https://mplscleanenergypartnership.org/2017/06/29/clean-energy-partnership-2016-annual-report/>. It will be reviewed by the Partnership Board at its next meeting on July 25.

Short Term Rentals. Council Member Frey has introduced an ordinance amendment that would regulate short term rentals that are currently operating in the city outside the scopes of our hotel/motel/hospitality regulations and our rental licensing program. This would include those operated as “Airbnb” entities and similar efforts.

Multifamily Building Notice of Sale Ordinance. Council Members Goodman and Glidden have introduced an ordinance amendment that would require advance notice of the sale of apartment buildings. I would also like to see the Council explore requiring a “Right of First Refusal” be given to tenants of any apartment sale. By allowing renters to form cooperatives and purchase existing affordable apartment buildings we could potentially prevent the displacement and gentrification that often occurs when apartment buildings are sold to investor developers.

Minneapolis Minute. Communications staff are now producing regular videos on City news. You can find the latest one here <http://news.minneapolismn.gov/2017/06/26/quick-look-city-news-2/>.

Upper Harbor Terminal Redevelopment. Planning and community engagement is underway to reshape the Upper Harbor Terminal area into a mix of riverfront parkland and private development. Two meetings were held in June and there is an online survey you can take any time before July 4th. For more information see <http://upperharbormpls.com/>

Reopening Nicollet Avenue at Lake Street. As part of a long-standing goal to reopen Nicollet Avenue at Lake Street, the City Council agreed to purchase 10 W Lake St, the land under the Kmart store in south Minneapolis. This offers us some certainty that eventually Nicollet Avenue will reopen, but because of the unfavorable terms in Kmart's lease, which does not expire until 2053, it could take several years, if not decades. I support the reopening and hope that Kmart will agree to end the lease earlier. The City purchased land adjacent to the Kmart site formerly home to a Supervalu grocery store in 2015. At that time, the City Council also approved initiating an option agreement for the land under the Kmart site. The cost of this investment is \$8 million, of which the City has already paid \$800,000 to secure the option agreement. The Council also approved using the City's Streetcar Value Capture Fund to cover the \$7.2 million remainder of the purchase price plus \$100,000 in closing costs. The Value Capture tool allows the City to tap property taxes generated from five parcels along the Nicollet Central corridor identified for a future streetcar line.

Open Streets Lake and Minnehaha. Please join me in celebrating our community and businesses at Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha, Sunday, July 23rd from 11:00am to 5:00pm. This year the celebration will go along Lake Street from Elliot Avenue to Minnehaha Ave and then along Minnehaha Ave until 46th St. The streets will be closed to auto traffic so we can celebrate along the corridors without the presence of motorized traffic.

Hiawatha Academy. The Planning Commission has approved the plan, conditional use permit and variances for a soccer field and new school that is being planned to be built at the former Shasta building at 3530 E 28th Street. They plan to construct a new High School. The approved plans call for reusing close to half of the existing building, including the iconic entry on 36th Ave and 28th Street. The project has received formal support from the Longfellow Community Council, Seward Neighborhood Group and the Midtown Greenway Coalition. I am currently working with nearby neighbors to help resolve some remaining concerns. A group of neighbors met with school leadership in June and another meeting is planned for July. You can learn more about the school here <http://hiawathaacademies.org/about-hiawatha/> and review the full staff report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-200787.pdf>

Namaste Apartments. I met recently to get an update on the progress of the redevelopment of the Bunge site near Van Cleve Park. It includes the construction of two apartment buildings and preservation of the landmark head house tower. I was happy to learn that Project for Pride in Living is now working with Riverton Cooperative Housing as a partner and I am monitoring the process carefully. They have already qualified for Affordable Housing Trust Fund money but there were some concerns that proposed changes to City's affordable housing policies might

impact the funding eligibility of the project. Fortunately, the policy proposal in question was not approved, so this project is likely to score well for affordable funding applications in the future.

Vapor Contamination in Como. The MPCA continues to work on the trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in the Como neighborhood that was expanded to include a second superfund site last year. The two sites in Como are the General Mills Superfund site and the Southeast Hennepin Superfund site. Work is just beginning in the Southeast Hennepin site and MPCA has requested access to properties in order to do TCE vapor intrusion testing and determine mitigation plans for individual properties. This is work that was completed years ago in the General Mills site, but the MPCA has determined that before they move on to the expected next step for the General Mills site, to “create a long-term plan to address the contamination” they want to wait until the needed basic testing and mitigation is done in the Southeast Hennepin. They believe that “because of the mitigation work already completed, this does not compromise the safety of the neighborhood.” I want to be sure that the mitigation systems are protecting homes and that we are doing all we can to ensure the health and safety of residents are protected and will be pushing for continued careful monitoring. For more on the Southeast Hennepin site see: www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/minneapolis-se-hennepin-area-groundwater-and-vapor-site, and for the General Mills site see : www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/minneapolis-general-millshenkel-corp-site

Comprehensive Plan Amendment in Malcolm Yards Area. The proposal to change the comprehensive plan for the area bounded by Malcolm, the University Transitway, the 29th Ave SE corridor and a line roughly parallel to the United Crushers silos has passed the Council. The comprehensive plan request will now be forward to the Metropolitan Council for consideration. The proposal is to remove this 9.4 acre piece of land from the Industrial Employment District and change it from Industrial to Transitional Industrial on the long-term land use map, to allow mixed-use commercial and residential redevelopment, including the adaptive reuse of the Harris building and expanding the planned park to the north side of the University Transitway.

Liquor Statute Change for Malcolm Yard. Representative Ilhan Omar worked with the Malcolm Yards project team on an amendment to the State’s liquor statute that would allow a food hall and Du Nord distillery to co-locate in the Harris Building. I submitted a letter of support for this amendment, which I believe will help the adaptive reuse of this historic building.

Blaze Pizza, located at 1000 Washington Ave SE, has applied to add an approved sidewalk café and a Special Late Night Food license to their business. If approved, they intend to add a new 18 seat sidewalk café and serve food until 3:00 a.m. Thursday to Saturday. Alcohol service will cease at 1:00 a.m. There will be no speakers and no live entertainment on the sidewalk café. There will be a public hearing July 11, at 1:30 or shortly thereafter in City Hall (350 South 5th Street) in room 317 before a Council Committee to gather public opinion and comments about the application. People can submit written comments to greg.buening@minneapolismn.gov.

Green on 4th Apartments. The developers of this 243 unit apartment being proposed at 2901 Fourth Street SE have received preliminary approval for “pay-as-you-go” Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance from the City. If final approval is given after the study period, the

financing, in the form of future property taxes being allowed to repay a loan, will help fund the construction of 66 new affordable housing units that represent 27% of the total units in the project. The estimated total development cost of the project is approximately \$56,048,406 and the developer is requesting the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$23,226,625. Further analysis will be done and the Council will need to approve a final amount.

Glendale Townhomes Local Historic Nomination. I have sent letters to all residents of Glendale Townhomes explaining my intention to nominate the area for local historic designation and asking for residents' opinion on whether to move forward with this or not. I have already received several responses back and only one resident has expressed opposition to the nomination. I have also met with residents on two occasions, and with MPHA staff and leadership. I will be preparing the nomination applications this summer and hope to bring it to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for consideration in the fall. If it is approved for nomination a more formal study will be done and presented to the HPC who may or may not recommend formal designation at that time.

Weatherization at Glendale. I was glad to see that weatherization work has begun with Sustainable Resources Center and CenterPoint Energy at the Glendale Townhomes. Crews have been putting in insulation; new bath fans and vents and other safety and efficiency improvements on the first building. I hope that all the units will have the work done in the months ahead. You can find more information at <https://is.gd/V7e9yx>.

Permanent Minnehaha Avenue Closure. Since May 31 Minnehaha Avenue between Cedar Avenue (County Road 152) and Franklin Avenue (County Road 5) has been permanently closed. This closure is a change has been made to improve this high crash area, where there are many conflicts between vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. When complete in the fall, this area will have a better driving surface, new turn lanes, improved north-south bike and pedestrian movements, updated curbs and gutter and improved signal timing.

Funds for People's Center Improvements. I was glad to learn that the People's Center Health Services will receive \$2.2 million through the state the bonding bill signed by Governor Dayton at the end of May for capital improvements to its Cedar Riverside clinic building. The grant will enable People's Center to design, renovate, construct, and equip a facility that provides medical, dental, mental health, and wellness services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. People's Center requested the funding as part of its five-year strategic plan. The expansion will include exam rooms for behavioral health counseling, dental services, an eye clinic and a wellness/fitness center that will be open to the community. The expansion will enable People's Center to serve an additional 2,500 new patients.

4th Street Lofts. Harlem Irving Company has submitted an application to build a new apartment building at 2812 4th Street SE, one block to the north of University Ave SE, and a half-block from the north of the Prospect Park Light Rail Station. They are proposing a six-story (approximately 78-foot-tall) building with 163 dwelling units and 89 parking stalls. I am working to make sure that there is time for community input and feedback before any formal steps are taken by the Planning Commission or the City Council.

CaptionMax Satellite Dishes. The City has approved the applications by CaptionMax, located at 2438 27th Ave S, for a conditional use permit to increase the height to 17 ft. and diameter of two satellite structure to 4.5 meters.

Bike Boulevards 29th Ave and 24th St. Construction work on 29th Ave South and East 24th Street is set to begin this month in Seward. This will include bumpouts at several collector streets along these new bicycle boulevards, to help bicyclists navigate these crossings, and to improve sight lines. It also includes two neighborhood traffic circles along 24th St E at 23rd Ave S and 25th Ave S. These will help to reduce vehicle speeds along the corridor and will provide greening to the street. For more details visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/saferoutes/WCMSP-184395>

Openings on Boards and Commissions. A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this summer. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open “Office Hours” in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.
First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;
Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;
Third Thursdays at T Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE;
Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

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