

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 6-26-17

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:**  
**T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE**  
**Thursday, July 20th, 9:30-11am**

### **Cam Gordon**

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Second Ward

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<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>  
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>  
[www.facebook.com/camgordonward2](http://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.*

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People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700

Rau kev pab 612-673-2800

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612-673-3500.

### **Items:**

- 1) Malcolm Yards Comprehensive Plan Change
  - 2) Green Fourth Reconstruction
  - 3) Minimum Wage
  - 4) Yanez Verdict
  - 5) State Bonding Requests
  - 6) Menthol Tobacco Ordinance
  - 7) Renewable Energy for City Operations
  - 8) Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance
  - 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) 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 full Council.
  - 2) Green Fourth Street is being reconstructed right now. For more information, go to the project website: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/2017/WCMSP-179479>
  - 3) In response to a report, that you can read at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmisp-199132.pdf>, 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 municipal minimum ordinance has been written and a public hearing was held that ran for nearly 6 hours from 3:30 to 9:25 on June 22. 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 9:30am Friday, June 30. You can find this and additional information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minimumwage/MINIMUM-HOME>
  - 4) 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 by the officer, and in the laws and policies relied on to operate our legal system. I believe that Philando Castile was person well loved by his city and our state, was needlessly killed, not just by one police officer, but by a flawed system. I am concerned that that system has now allowed is killer to go free as if his actions were perfectly legal and condoned. Moving forward I believe that it will be essential for us continue to work to reform our criminal justice system to make racial justice and racial equity a part of every decision.

- 5) In June the Council approved state bonding requests for next year in time to promote them with other cities. While, these can be modified in the future, at this time we have approved submitting the following with the state's Minnesota Management and Budget Office as our projects, in this priority, for next years: 1) Upper Harbor Terminal Redevelopment = \$14.0 million; 2) Emergency Operations and Training Facility: Phase II = \$2.5 million; 3) Central City Storm Tunnel Rehabilitation = \$19.0 million; and 4) 4. Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock Redevelopment = \$1.5 million.
- 6) In 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 has been restricted to adult only tobacco shops. Health experts acknowledge that menthol masks the irritating effect of tobacco smoke which makes it easier to inhale, which facilitates experimentation and addiction by youth. The Food and Drug Administration has concluded menthol tobacco poses a public health 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." You can read more about the specific problems with menthol tobacco here: <http://beautifullyeuglytruth.org/>
- 7) The Council is poised to take action on June 30<sup>th</sup> that would put the City enterprise on track to get 100% of our electricity for City government owned uses from clean, renewable sources within five years. This would include all the electricity for street lights, signal lights, City-owned buildings including police and fire stations, public works facilities, the convention center and the downtown basketball arena, as well as our water plant. If the motion is approved by the Council, staff will report back to Health, Environment and Community Engagement (HECE) and Ways and Means committees by August 28, 2017, with a preliminary analysis and recommendations on steps necessary for the City enterprise meet this goal. The analysis for the City enterprise will include current and projected usage of electricity over the next 10 years as a result of factors such as reduced demand for electricity such as LED lighting, changes to water storage and distribution systems, new building enhancements, and improvements to existing facilities as well as construction of new City facilities and consolidation of the City's real estate.
1. Potential increase in usage pursuant to the current study for the potential of new electric vehicles in the City's fleet.
- The options for providing electricity to the City could include, but are not limited to:
1. Larger scale solar (PV) arrays on City owned land and structures such as water utility facilities, parking lots and parking ramps.
  2. Solar gardens
  3. Purchase of renewable energy credits
  4. Longer term options for stable sources of power, including legislation needed, to enable the City to purchase power on the wholesale market or finance/own larger scale renewable energy projects on property not adjacent to City buildings.
- 8) 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 Governor wrote that he was "...disappointed that Senate File 1456 includes... preempting local governments from passing ordinances regulating plastic bags." ([http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017\\_05\\_30\\_Chapter\\_94.pdf](http://mn.gov/gov-stat/pdf/2017_05_30_Chapter_94.pdf)) had translated into a veto. 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. 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.
- 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.