

**Council Member Cam Gordon's  
Report to the Seward Neighborhood Group  
July 26, 2017**

**Cam's Next Office Hours:  
Thursday July 27, 10:00-11:030am, Blue Moon Café**

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***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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- 1) Police Officer Killing and Chief Resignation
- 2) Police Reform
- 3) Tobacco Sales Restrictions
- 4) Audit of Police Body Worn Video Equipment Program
- 5) Animal Care and Control 2016 End of Year Report
- 6) City Climate Data
- 7) Minimum Wage
- 8) Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance
- 9) Co-op Mall at 2600 Minnehaha
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you have likely heard, in the wake of the tragic killing of Justine Damond by the Minneapolis Police, Chief Janee Harteau has resigned, and the mayor has put forward the name of Medaria Arradondo to be the next Police Chief. This most recent shooting reopens pain and distrust in our community in a police force that just two years ago saw one of its officers shoot and killed Jamar Clark. Justine should not have been killed, just as Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, Philando Castile and so many others should not have been killed. I believe that change in leadership for the Minneapolis Police Department is a first step. As she transitions away from her role as Police Chief, I thank Janee Harteau for her years of service to the people of Minneapolis, and the real and important progress that has been made towards transforming our police department on her watch. Her accomplishments and partnership, including on de-escalation and implicit bias training for all officers and on the co-responder program and changes to the use of force policy aimed at reducing police violence, are real, valuable, and notable.
- 2) I believe that the current events and conversation about policing underscores the fact that we need deeper transformation that goes well beyond a change in leadership. It requires broad-based, systemic change. Three priority reforms we should move forward on now are:
  - a. A city budget that prioritizes community violence prevention and reform above adding sworn police personnel.
  - b. Amending the Minneapolis City Charter to ensure that accountability for the police department is shared by the City Council to put the police chief on equal footing with other department heads and ensure every elected official in Minneapolis is engaged in and accountable for reform.
  - c. Establishing a city Community Task Force on Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform, loosely modeled off of the President's Task Force for 21st Century Policing, covering Policy & Oversight, Procedural Justice & Transparency, Training & Education, and Technology with a primary focus on eliminating the racial disparities within the criminal justice system, minimizing collateral consequences for those charged or convicted of a crime, and reforming policies disproportionately affecting poor people of color.

Our work on police practices must be grounded in a critical understanding of race and racism in Minneapolis, and the present day consequences of our history. Minneapolis Police Department policies must be evaluated using a race equity lens.

- 3) On August 2 the Health Environment and Community Engagement will meet to discuss and vote on an amendment to our tobacco sales ordinance. The new ordinance would remove the exemption for menthol, mint and wintergreen to our flavored tobacco ordinance, that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco product to adult only tobacco shops. They would no longer be allowed to be sold at grocery, convenience or other stores.
- 4) With my strong support, The Public Safety, Civil rights and Emergency Management Committee is recommending that the Department of Civil Rights and Internal Audit Department conduct an independent internal audit of the Police Department's mobile and body worn video recording equipment programs. The audit will evaluate compliance with applicable Minnesota Statutes, review training and equipment use and evaluate compliance with Minneapolis Police Department's policies and procedures.
- 5) The 2016 Animal Care and Control report is now available. In 2016, compared to 2015, there was a 40% increase in the number of animal adoptions. The shelter housed 4,196 animals with an 82% live release rate of all animals species including wildlife. The 18% remainder consisted of animals that could not be rehomed or returned to owner because they were deemed dangerous to public safety or had a severe untreatable medical condition. Still, 163 dogs and 221 cats were euthanized, but no animal was euthanized due to space, time or breed in 2016. You can find more details at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-201977>
- 6) I am happy to report that the City has now been able to post the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's deleted climate data on the City of Minneapolis website. The webpage contains information on the basic science behind climate change, the ways weather is impacted from increased greenhouse gas emissions and actions the federal government has taken to reduce the impact. Major cities including Atlanta, Boston, Houston, San Francisco and Seattle have also posted the information. The website address is <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate-action-goals/epaclimate>
- 7) 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. 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>
- 8) I am moving forward with an effort to amend the city carryout bag 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. It may also allow certified compostable plastic bags to be disturbed without a fee. A final draft of the proposed amendments will be available soon and the public hearing has been set for August 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.
- 9) I am working with Council member Warsame to explore new uses for the city owned vacant commercial lot at 2600 Minnehaha Ave in Seward. The property has been for sale for over 10 years and the City has cleaned up the pollution to make it ready for development. In the weeks ahead we will be asking staff to do explore feasibility of marketing the site as a cooperatively owned retail mall with smaller commercial businesses that could also include some light manufacturing like a bakery. Based on the feasibility study staff may then be directed to issue a request for proposals for potential development later this summer or in early autumn. We will be very interested in sharing the study results and engaging the neighborhood in the development of the RFP and future discussion about this idea.
- 10) 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.