

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 7-20-17

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, July 27, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

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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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an alternative format, please contact
NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612- 673-
3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-
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Items:

- 1) Open Streets
 - 2) Hiawatha Academies
 - 3) Minimum Wage Ordinance Passes
 - 4) Menthol Tobacco Ordinance
 - 5) Selling and Sorting on the Street Ordinance
 - 6) Sick and Safe Time Ordinance
 - 7) 29th Ave and 24th St Bike Boulevards
 - 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) I hope that you'll join me at Open Streets on Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue this **Sunday, July 23rd**. The route runs down Lake Street from Elliot Avenue to Minnehaha, and down Minnehaha from Lake Street to Minnehaha Regional Park. You can find out more at http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/lake_minnehaha
 - 2) The Planning Commission has approved Hiawatha Academies new school in the old Shasta bottling plant at the corner of 28th Street and 36th Ave. I continue to meet regularly with nearby neighbors and Hiawatha Academies to try to find ways to mitigate neighbors' concerns. I have also scheduled another public meeting for nearby residents on **Tuesday, July 25th**, at 7pm at St. Albert the Great Catholic Church, 2836 33rd Ave S.
 - 3) 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. 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. 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>

- 4) This menthol tobacco ordinance amendment I am coauthoring with CM Lisa Bender will come forward for a public hearing on **July 24th** at 1:30pm in the Council Chambers. As we consider the ordinance restricting menthol products to adult-only shops, it's important to remember where this idea came from. It didn't come from me, my coauthor, or the City's Health Department staff. It came from the community. Specifically, this proposal has been brought forward by leaders in the African American community. At a press conference today, a group of these leaders laid out their support and rationales for this ordinance in a very powerful way. That group included Senator Jeff Hayden and Representative Rena Moran, Gene Nichols with the African American Leadership Forum, Stella Whitney-West, Juan Jackson and Latrisha Vetaw from NorthPoint Health and Wellness, and pastor John Bowen from Greater Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church. Tatiyanna Morrow spoke up for the many youth who were present. They spoke movingly about the reasons they support restricting menthol tobacco through this ordinance. Tobacco companies have targeted the African American community for years, and that the community sees through the industry's marketing. Tobacco use is still the largest preventable cause of death. The research done by the African American Leadership Forum found broad and deep support within the community for this intervention - with 86% support among the hundreds of community members surveyed. And we are only advocating for menthol tobacco to be treated like other products that we know have greater risk, like distilled liquor and sudafed. If you'd like to see the press event ofr yourself, you can see it here:
<https://www.facebook.com/BeautifulLieUglyTruth/videos/vb.109642989538249/248199009015979/?type=2&theater>
- 5) The Council, with my support, has approved Council Member Andrew Johnson's ordinance amendment that will allow licensed food venders, 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Construction work on 29th Ave South and East 24th Street has begun. This will include bumpouts at several collector streets along these new bicycle boulevards, to help bicyclists navigate these crossings, and to improve sightlines. 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>
- 8) 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.