

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood September 5, 2017

**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:
Thursday, September 14th, 9:30-11:00am
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

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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.

If you need this material 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, llame 612-673-3737

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

- 1) Mayor's Proposed Budget
- 2) Franchise Fee Increase to Fight Climate Change
- 3) Zero Waste Plan
- 4) Your City, Your Vote
- 5) Early Voting
- 6) New Online Voter Resource
- 7) New Police Chief Appointed
- 8) Flavored Tobacco Ordinance
- 9) MPCA Public Hearings
- 10) Bring Your Own Bag
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Mayor delivered her 2018 recommended budget to the City Council on August 15 in the form of an 8 page statement that you can read here: <https://www.scribd.com/document/356388000/2018-Budget-Message>. The budget proposes a 5.5 percent increase in the property-tax levy for 2018, which includes the 20-year Parks & Streets property-tax increases approved last year. She will deliver her formal 2018 budget address at noon September 12 and present a more detailed budget then. Departments will be presenting their proposed budgets to the Council through September and October. Formal public hearings on the budget will be held at 6:05pm on November 29th and December 6. The Council has reserved December 1st as budget "markup" day when Council Member amendments are presented and considered. Amendments may also be made after the hearing on the 6th as well.
- 2) The mayor's proposed budget includes a 0.5 % increase in the City's natural gas and electricity franchise fees to be dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas pollution and implementing our Climate Action Plan. This could bring in an estimated \$2 million and is consistent with the Clean Energy Partnership's call to raise additional resources aimed at increasing clean energy use in Minneapolis. I have been a long time supporting of this strategy and plan to support the needed amendments to our city code of ordinances to make it possible.
- 3) The City has drafted a citywide zero waste plan to help reduce waste and reach our goals to recycle and compost 50% of our overall waste stream by 2020 and 80% by 2030. To share the plan and gather feedback, I am cohosting a community meeting with my colleague Abdi Warsame on **Thursday, September 14th** from 6-8pm at Matthews Park, 2318 29th Ave S. The City is also hosting a series of engagement sessions as part of our work to develop. These meetings will be on **Monday, September 11th**, from **6-8pm at the Minneapolis Urban League**, 2100 Plymouth Avenue North and **September 13th, from 6-8pm at Sabathani Community Center**, 310 East 38th Street. In addition to hosting a series of engagement sessions, the city will have a website platform and survey dedicated to gathering feedback online. The launch of the site will be on **September 7th, 2017**. You can find out more here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>.

- 4) The ballot for the 2017 municipal election has been set. The lists for all candidates who filed for municipal offices can be seen at vote.minneapolismn.gov/candidate/FILING. This year we will again use ranked-choice voting to elect a mayor and members of the City Council, Board of Estimate and Taxation, and Park and Recreation Board. The ballot will again have three columns, and choices are made from left to right in those columns. See vote.minneapolismn.gov for accurate, timely information about this year's election and ranked-choice voting. The website is very easy to use and full of useful information including information on voter registration, absentee ballots, finding your voting locations, getting a sample ballots and more.
- 5) Election Day is **November 7**, but for the first time in a local election, people can choose to vote before Election Day by absentee ballot without providing a reason, by mail, or in-person, starting on **September 22**. This includes voting by mail and early voting by in person absentee ballot. Ballots will be mailed on the 22nd to all voters who have submitted an absentee ballot application at this point. In-person early voting takes place at the Downtown Early Vote Center, at 217 S. Third St., at the corner of Third Ave S and Third St S, one block from City Hall. Standard voting hours will be Monday-Friday from 8am until 4:30pm, with extended hours including weekends in the final days before Election Day.
- 6) A new website called MSPVotes, put together by a group called Wedge LIVE, has compiled a large amount of potentially helpful information regarding the upcoming local elections. This includes information gathered by researching all the 2016-2017 campaign finance reports and pulling out noteworthy contributions to highlight patterns of donations from specific individuals, business sectors, Political Action Committees and organizations. While not an exhaustive analysis of all donations you might find it very informative and I encourage you to review it before voting. After reviewing it myself, my commitment to campaign finance reform and exploring a system of publically financed campaigns for Minneapolis has been strengthened. So far, for example, developers alone account for over \$108,000 in campaign contributions to Minneapolis candidates. Find more information at <https://elections.wedgelive.com/>
- 7) The City Council has unanimously approved Mayor Betsy Hodges' nomination of Medaria "Rondo" Arradondo as our new Chief of Police, our first African American police chief. Arradondo joined MPD in 1989 as a patrol officer in the 3rd Precinct. He has served as a school resource officer, a northside beat officer, internal affairs investigator and property-crime investigation experience. More recently he has served as 1st Precinct inspector, deputy chief and chief of staff.
- 8) The Council has approved the amendment to the tobacco sales ordinance I coauthored that removes the exemption for menthol, mint and wintergreen to our flavored tobacco ordinance that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult only tobacco shops. Before it was passed, amendments were added to allow liquor stores to continue to sell the product (if they do not allow people under 21 years old into the store without a parent or guardian) and stipulate that the law will not go into effect until August 1, 2018, reducing availability of these products from 318 tobacco outlets to 23 tobacco products shops and 24 liquor stores. I supported both of these amendments and think that they help address some of the concerns that were raised.
- 9) The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is holding meeting to share information and gather input about a new air quality sensors program at the following times and locations: Sept. 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Powderhorn Park Rec Center, 3500 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis; Sept. 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Audubon Park Rec Center, 1320 29 Ave. NE, Minneapolis; Sept. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Farview Park Rec Center, 621 29th Ave. N., Minneapolis. The MPCA plans to begin placing the sensors in January 2018. For more information, visit <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/assessing-urban-air-quality-project>.
- 10) I was disappointed with the outcome on the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance amendment I expected to see passed in August. The Council majority voted 10-2 for to delay the vote and send it back to staff. I believe that this was an anti-environment vote. I plan to bring this amendment after the election later this year or early in 2018 and am hopeful that it will pass then. In the meantime, I encourage us all to bring our own bags when shopping and for stores to phase out the use plastic bags voluntarily and charge 5 cents for paper bags, like some stores are already doing. For now we still have an ordinance on the books that we are not enforcing but part of it (the \$.05 fee on paper bags) is still in effect.
- 11) A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this fall. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.