

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 10-23-17

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Thursday, November 23rd, 9:30-11am

Cam Gordon

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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)

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

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612-673-3500.

Items:

- 1) Concerns about "Prime Place" Development
- 2) Exploring Making Essex St SE Two-Way
- 3) Vision Zero Commitment
- 4) 2018 Budget
- 5) New Voters Guide
- 6) Sheriff's Collaboration with ICE
- 7) Street Sweeping Under Way
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I have had significant concerns about the "Prime Place" development, located on 27th Ave SE. A few weeks ago, I did a walk-through of the project with the head of the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, to see his concerns about not only the treatment of workers on the job site but some of the below-standard work that was being done. I have also heard concerns from the University of Minnesota's Student Legal Service, about the student renters' well-being and the violation of the contracts they signed. This building was supposed to have been ready to rent in September, but was only made available in early October - and students were moved in before the building had a rental license. I have also been communicating with staff in the Regulatory Services, Community Planning and Economic Development, and Public Works departments about concerns with this project. The concerns I have shared include: the poor quality of the work being done; the safety and well-being of workers on the site; the ongoing, significant negative impact of the project on the sidewalk, bike lane and travel lanes on 27th Ave SE; and potential health and safety concerns for the residents and potential future residents. Development projects often create headaches. We need more housing stock, and I support building new dwelling units. But it is difficult for me to remember a project that has created so many different serious concerns, for so long.
- 2) My office organized a meeting between members of the Prospect Park Association's Transportation Committee, City staff, and U of M staff about the potential to make Essex St SE a two-way street, at least for bicycles. I am open to this idea, and it sounds like City staff and the University are as well. It would be helpful to have a formal position from PPA about this.
- 3) As With my strong support, the Council has adopted a resolution that commits the City to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries because of crashes on City Streets by 2027, establishes a Vision Zero Task Force, and directs that Task Force to develop a Vision Zero action plan. I am very supportive of this effort, think that is consistent with the efforts already started, including in our Complete Streets Plan, and hope that our work on this plan can start make our streets safer long before 2017. For more on the vision Zero network see <http://visionzeronetwork.org/>.

- 4) Mayor Hodges delivered her budget address and full proposed 2018 budget on September 12th. Departments will be presenting their proposed budgets to the Council through September and October, with formal public hearings at 6:05pm on November 29th and December 6th. Prior to the hearing and final budget adoption on December 6th, 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. This year, the City of Minneapolis has launched a new website dedicated specifically for the budget at budget.minneapolismn.gov. The new site includes the full budget document, Mayor Hodges' budget address, past budgets, FAQs and calendar of upcoming budget meetings. The proposed budget includes:
- Nearly \$6 million total in clean energy, cleaner businesses, and more efficient commercial and residential spaces in the city.
 - Raising utility franchise fees by half a percent, which will raise more than \$2 million in 2018 alone to ensure significant, predictable funding to move the dial on Minneapolis' climate impact.
 - \$24 million in housing investment across a number of programs, including \$6.5 million in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
 - A \$4 million investment in new strategies that will continue to build community trust and ensure public safety.
 - A \$1.2 million investment to protect and support the constitutional rights of every single qualified voter in the City of Minneapolis.
- To learn more about the budget or the process and to give feedback, visit budget.minneapolismn.gov.
- 5) A new voter's guide has been released, and I encourage you to take a look. It's available at thisismpls.com.
- 6) In September I received a very disturbing letter dated September 21 from the Hennepin County Sheriff, Richard W. Stanek outlining the County Jails close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division. It appears to confirm some of our worst fears about what has been happening at the County Jail for decades now and I believe it should give us cause to reconsider, renegotiate and potentially terminate the contract we, the City of Minneapolis, has with them to serves as our jail. It is he states, “At the point of booking, Minnesota law requires that we ask each arrestee their "place of birth." Every inmate also is fingerprinted, the prints are sent to the BCA, which sends them to the FBI and then to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. ... If an arrestee voluntarily discloses that they were foreign born, or a non-U.S. citizen, HCSO makes this information available to ICE, arranges a call to ICE, and offers the arrestee the option of speaking with an immigration agent. We notify ICE when an inmate is released *only* when ICE previously has served a Request for Notification. In 2016, we received 267 "Requests for Notification" (for 0.85% of inmates) and ICE actually picked up 68 inmates after their release (0.2% of all inmates booked in the Hennepin County Jail). We do not decide which inmates ICE picks up, and ICE never reports back on the status or result of their immigration proceedings.” You can find the full text from the letter here <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2017/10/letter-from-hennepin-county-sheriffs.html>
- 7) The City has begun curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the. During the four weeks of the comprehensive fall street sweep, crews will clean about 1,000 miles of city streets. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they're swept. The first signs will be posted Monday, Oct. 16, and sweeping will begin the next day. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow posted parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. In addition to the signs the City now uses social media, robo-calls and an interactive website to push out information about when your street needs to be cleared of cars for cleaning. See www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis, www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis, and www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping. The fall street sweep takes four weeks, and visitors to the website will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Then, on the weekend before each of the four weeks, the schedule for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept.
- 8) Visit the City's website, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for appointment opportunities and position descriptions for City boards and commissions.