

**Council Member Cam Gordon's  
Report to the Seward Neighborhood, September 27, 2017**

**Cam's Next Office Hours:**

**Thursday September 28, 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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673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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- 1) 2018 Budget
- 2) Funding for Climate Change
- 3) Zero Waste Plan
- 4) Vision Zero Resolution Passes
- 5) Early Voting
- 6) Sample Ballots
- 7) Menthol Tobacco Ordinance
- 8) New Campaign Finance Tool
- 9) Medaria Arradondo Confirmed as Police Chief
- 10) Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Indefinitely Delayed
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Mayor Hodges delivered her 2018 budget address on September 12<sup>th</sup>. You can read it here: <http://budget.minneapolismn.gov/>. The Mayor's budget proposes a 5.5 percent increase in the property-tax levy for 2018, which includes the 20-year parks and streets improvements property-tax increases approved last year. 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**.
- 2) The Mayor's proposed budget includes an additional source of revenue through a 0.5 % increase in the City's natural gas and electricity franchise fees. This could bring in an estimated \$2 million and is consistent with the Clean Energy Partnership's call to raise additional resources aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, implementing more of our Climate Action Plan and paying for renewable energy efforts undertaken by the City, its residents and businesses. I have been a long time advocate of this strategy and plan to support the budget proposal and 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. The city has a website platform and survey dedicated to gathering feedback online. You can read the draft plan, take a survey about it, and find out more here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>.
- 4) With my strong support, the Council has adopted a resolution that commits the City to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries as a result 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. For more on the vision Zero network see <http://visionzeronetwork.org/>.
- 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 starting on **September 22**. This includes voting by mail and early voting in person by absentee ballot. 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. 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) The City Council has approved the amendment 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. Sales of other flavored tobacco products have already been restricted to tobacco shops since 2016. Preventing underage tobacco use is a key public health strategy for preventing tobacco-related illness and death because 87 percent of current smokers started using tobacco products before they were age 18. This means that if youth smoking can be prevented, adult smoking and related tobacco illness and death will continue to decline. The nicotine in tobacco products can also harm adolescent brain development. For more information about what Minneapolis is doing to protect young people from tobacco see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/living/free/WCMS1P-125564>
- 7) 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](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/candidate/FILING). Sample ballots for the 2017 Municipal Election are available on-line via the Secretary of State's website, at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot> also found through the City's great elections site at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/BALLOT> . 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. See [vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov) for accurate, timely information about this year's election and ranked-choice voting, including information on voter registration, absentee ballots, finding your voting locations, getting a sample ballots and more.
- 8) 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/>
- 9) The City Council has unanimously approved Mayor Hodges' nomination of Medaria "Rondo" Arradondo as our new Chief of Police, our first African American police chief. Arradondo joined Minneapolis Police Department 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 has property-crime investigation experience. More recently he has served as 1st Precinct inspector, deputy chief and chief of staff.
- 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 to delay the vote and send it back to staff. I believe that this was an anti-environment vote. We had a chance to clean up an ordinance, broken by the state legislature, and take a modest step that many of our residents have been asking us to take for years and that over 160 cities and 20 countries around the world have already taken to help address the serious and growing problem of plastic waste. (<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/whats-so-bad-about-plastic-bags/>) 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) 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.