

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 9-21-17

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:  
Thursday, September 28, 9:30-11:00am  
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

### **Cam Gordon**

City Council Member  
Second Ward

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<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>  
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>  
[www.facebook.com/camgordonward2](http://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2)

*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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### **Items:**

- 1) 2018 Budget
- 2) Funding for Climate Change
- 3) Zero Waste Plan
- 4) 2017 Election
- 5) Early Voting
- 6) Election Information
- 7) New Police Chief Medaria Arradondo
- 8) "Missing Middle" Housing Approved in Longfellow
- 9) Rainbow Foods Site
- 10) 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. 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.
- 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) 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.
- 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) 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 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.
- 8) The Planning Commission has approved three very similar six-unit buildings in the Longfellow neighborhood, at 2921 29th Ave S, 2829 27th Ave S, and 2912 30th Ave S. These buildings are on infill lots zoned R4, and represent the sort of new market rate housing that can be affordable to many residents, even when relatively new. I am supportive of this model of housing, and hope to see more of it built in areas like this, with good access to jobs, services, transit and other amenities.
- 9) On August 28, Wellington presented the status of their redevelopment plans for project, called the "Minnehaha Crossing," at the old Rainbow grocery store site at 27<sup>th</sup> Ave and 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Currently a portion of the building has been renovated and is housing Universal Academy charter school. Next year the school will be relocated in the eastern portion of the old grocery store and there will be a new front door to the school on 29<sup>th</sup>. They have an agreement with Aldi Grocery Store to lease a portion of the old Rainbow store, and are looking for another commercial tenant or tenants to rent the space where the charter school is now. At the meeting they also shared plans, yet to be submitted to the City for approval, for a 5 story apartment building along 29<sup>th</sup>, where the parking lot is now, that would include retail uses on the first floor. For more information visit <https://www.minnehahacrossing.com/>.
- 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.