

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

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>
www.facebook.com/camgordonward2
<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>

*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.

Cam's Next Como Office Hours:

Thursday, December 14th, 9:30-11:00am

Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE

- 1) 2018 Budget Amendments
- 2) Zero Waste Plan
- 3) Formalizing Racial Equity Work
- 4) Mid-City Industrial Street Reconstructions
- 5) Clean Energy Franchise Fee
- 6) Money in Minneapolis Politics
- 7) Pedestrian Crash Study
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I worked with my colleagues to make a number of amendments to the mayor's proposed budget that will be considered tomorrow evening when we take the final vote on the budget after our last Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget. One was to fund two additional inspectors in the Health Department's Food Lodging and Pools division. The number of restaurants continues to increase, as does the number of restaurants doing innovative things with fresh ingredients. Those are both really good trends, but they also put a lot of pressure on our staff. My motion dedicates enough funding for two new inspectors just for next year, along with a staff direction to revisit our fee structures to make sure the fees we charge are covering our costs. My second was to change the Neighborhood and Community Relations department budget by decreasing the appropriation for Collaborative Safety Strategies from \$475,000 to \$435,000, and increasing the appropriation for Senior Support Services from \$20,000 to \$60,000.
- 2) The Transportation and Public Works committee has passed the proposed Zero Waste Plan, and I expect the full Council to pass it on Friday. I consider this a major step towards a future with less waste, more recycling and composting, and fairer and more transparent waste service for everyone in Minneapolis. businesses. The plan and the proposed next step of having our staff come before the Council with a recommended implementation plan early next year. You can find out more here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>.
- 3) I am working with Council Member Glidden to formalize the City's ongoing work on racial equity in three ways. The first is an ordinance that CM Glidden is authoring that will require the City to continue to work on racial equity and placing responsibility for that work in the Coordinator's office. The second is a resolution that will establish a Racial Equity Steering Committee consisting of City staff, and charges them with creating a Racial Equity Action Plan by June of 2018. The third action is a resolution that will establishing a new Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee to help drive this work and provide guidance and feedback on these issues in an ongoing way.
- 4) The Council has approved the layout for the Mid-City Industrial Reconstruction Project for the reconstruction of several streets in the Mid-City Industrial Neighborhood just north of East Hennepin Ave between 11th and 27th Streets. <https://lirms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2017-01311>.

- 5) As part of the budget the Council is considering approving a 0.5% increase to the utility franchise fees we collect from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. The average residential customer currently pays a franchise fee of about \$5.30 per month (about \$64 a year). If the increase passes, it would be another half percentage point, which would cost the average residential customer about 57 cents more a month. The programs this additional revenue will support include better outreach to all types of energy users about energy efficiency programs, better financing options that would make improvements possible for some low-wealth residents and businesses, incentives to make efficiency improvements and renewable energy even more attractive, and more. For all of the programs, there is a focus on ensuring that there is an offering for all types (or classes) of energy customers, from single family homeowners to multifamily buildings and commercial and industrial businesses. There's also a focus on equity, on first serving the people who have tended to be left behind by the current utility offerings: low income people, small businesses, with a particular focus on serving people in the identified Green Zones. I believe that a stable, ongoing source of funds to support this work is important. To help ensure this increase will to clean energy efforts I moved a resolution which the committee approved, and later the Council adopted unanimously, which resolved that: "the City of Minneapolis commits to using the increased revenue generated by raising energy utility franchise fees by one half of one percent to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, policies and interventions that will serve all energy ratepayers in Minneapolis, including homeowners, renters and rental property owners, and commercial and industrial businesses of all sizes."
- 6) Something I found disturbing about this year's city elections is the massive amounts of spending that was done, both through candidate campaigns, and also through independent-expenditures by Political Action Committees (PACs) including \$91,156 by the PAC called "Minneapolis Works!" started by the Downtown Council and Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. While the final campaign finance reports are not due until the end of January of 2018, based on the September and pre-general election October reports some observations are possible. First, it is clear that unions, developers, other PACs and the active lobbyists in City Hall see value in contributing to City campaigns and that most candidates accept their contributions. According to my calculations the highest donor group is developers, who contributed a little over \$230,000 to candidates and independent groups as of the October reporting deadline, followed by unions with \$225,600, non-union PACs (which includes firms that lobby) at \$100,750. Two developer firms donated a surprisingly large share of the developer money, with those who own or work for Lupe Development (the company started by Steve Minn) with \$40,250 and United Properties (the Pohlad's company) with \$33,100 leading the way. Of all the candidates Jacob Frey accepted the most money from developers at \$50,059.
- 7) The Transportation and Public Works committee has heard a very informative report on pedestrian crashes in Minneapolis. The report's purpose is to "better understand where, how, and why pedestrian crashes are occurring in Minneapolis," using the best data we have. A few of the results were fairly unsurprising, and confirm what many of us have long believed. For example, the data clearly show that streets with fewer lanes have fewer pedestrian crashes. Two way streets with four lanes have more than twice the rate of pedestrian crashes (measured as crashes per mile per year) of two way streets with two lanes. And it's even worse on one way streets, where three-lane one ways have more than three times the crash rate of two-lane one ways. Driver inattention and driver failing to yield are the most common contributing factors in pedestrian crashes. Most crashes involve turning vehicles, especially left turning vehicles. Most of the crashes are happening on a small number of streets. 80% of all pedestrian crashes occurred on 10% of streets, and 75% of all major crashes occurred on only 5% of streets. Then there are some more surprising findings. For example, most crashes happen at intersections, and most of the crashes that happen at intersections happen at traffic signals. I appreciate staff's great work on this report, and know that I will use its findings when I'm assessing future projects. You can find the study at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@publicworks/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-206688.pdf>
- 8) 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.