

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood
March 6, 2018**

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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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**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:
Monday, March 12 9:30-11:00am
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

- 1) Community Meeting on Housing
 - 2) Rezoning of Bunge Site
 - 3) Funding for Bunge Site
 - 4) Future of Neighborhood Funding
 - 5) Department Head Appointments
 - 6) Racial Equity Advisory Committee
 - 7) U of M Child Development Center
 - 8) University Area Protected Bikeways
 - 9) Open Streets
 - 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions
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- 1) Please join Council Member Warsame and me **Thursday March 8th** from **7-9pm** at **Matthews Park**, 2318 29th Ave S, for a community meeting on housing with a focus on Wards 2 and 6. There we will discuss housing concerns, goals and strategies for improvement in our Wards and throughout Minneapolis. This is one is series of meetings that I will be using to help develop the work plan of the City Council's new Housing Policy and Development Committee that I am chairing. The Committee will have oversight of all policy related to the health, safety and affordability of housing and oversees all matters related to homelessness prevention, housing opportunities, fair housing and housing finance, including residential real estate development, redevelopment and land sales.
 - 2) The Zoning and Planning Committee has voted to recommend approval of an application submitted by Urbanworks Architecture to rezone the properties located at 901 12th Ave SE, 901 1/2 12th Ave SE, 913 12th Ave SE, 1200 Brook Ave SE, and 1206 Brook Ave SE to add the IL Industrial Living Overlay District (retaining the UA University Area Overlay District) to redevelop the former Bunge Grain Elevator site to 145 dwelling units of multiple-family housing. This is small but critical step in the redevelopment of this area into affordable housing unit while preserving the head house as a land mark. For some more details see lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/3710/Bunge%20staff%20report.pdf
 - 3) The City has accepted grants from the Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) in the amount of \$73,500 for soil remediation to support Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and Riverton Community Housing's construction of two apartment buildings and restoration of the Head House on site of the former Bunge grain elevators near Van Cleve Park. 1206 Brook Ave SE, 901 12th Ave SE, and portions of 1200 Brook Ave SE and 937 13th Ave SE. The Council also accepted grants from Hennepin County's Environmental Response Fund (ERF) in the amounts of \$34,500 and \$185,260 to be used for demolition, hazmat abatement, and soil remediation.

- 4) The City is seeking feedback on a draft plan, called the Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap, through April 30th. The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold an open forum on this at their next full commission meeting on **Tuesday, March 27th from 5:00-7:00pm** at the Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall. The plan presents three different approaches to neighborhood funding, programming and support services in preparation for an end to the City's current funding scheme that has been supporting community engagement and neighborhood organization work for decades. New funding is proposed to start January 1, 2021. After a community engagement process that concludes in April, recommendations to the city council will be developed and potentially considered by the Council in November 2018. You can find the report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-208855.pdf> You can sign up for updates at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>. Comments can be submitted to NCR@minneapolismn.gov.
- 5) Over the next few months the Council will be considering appointments or reappointments of the directors for our 9 major departments: City Assessor, City Coordinator, Civil Rights, Community Planning and Economic Development, the Fire Department, Health Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Regulatory Services. So far the Mayor has nominated the Executive Committee has recommended 5 people for appointment or reappointment, David Frank for Community Planning and Economic Development, Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde for City Coordinator, Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works and Susan Segal for City Attorney. I supported the first four in the Committee and abstained from voting on the City Attorney. I have voted against the City Attorney's reappointment in the past and may do so again. In March following public hearings held at the appropriate committees, the Council will vote to approve or disapprove of these appointments.
- 6) The Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee that I led the effort to establish late last year is poised to begin work this year. The committee is comprised of 17 voting members. At least one member from each of the 13 wards are appointed by the City Council and two members are appointed by the Mayor, with one seat available to a person appointed by the Minneapolis School Board and one by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with a priority on racial balance. Members serve two-year terms. For more information you can contact the Division of Race and Equity, 612-673-2032, or Raceequity@minneapolismn.gov. The application deadline is Friday, March 30, 2018.
- 7) The Council has approved the layout for the University of Minnesota Protected Bikeways Project, found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00122>. The project includes new protected bike lanes in Southeast Como, including on 18th Avenue from East Hennepin Ave to Como Ave SE; Rollins Ave SE from 15th to 18th Ave; 15th Ave from Rollins to University.
- 8) I was surprised and troubled to learn that the University of Minnesota Administration intends close the University of Minnesota Child Development Center. Since the closing of the Center has been announced I have received a number of calls and emails with concerns from constituents and others. Clearly, the center provides a valuable resource for University staff, students and faculty. So in the days to come, I will be reaching out to the University and asking them to reconsider this decision. I will seek to better understand why it was made, listen to parents and others who are concerned about the loss of this beloved program, and offer to work with all of them to keep it open or find an alternative that would allow the Center to remain in operation elsewhere. I have also signed this petition urging a halt the Center's planned closure and for a commitment to its preservation. I invite you to do the same. <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScM5PkgkywKMXSjgi.../viewform>
- 9) The Council has approved all but one of the routes for the 2018 Minneapolis Open Streets events including one in the University of Minnesota area on 14th Ave SE from 5th St SE to University Ave SE, then on University Ave SE to Oak St SE, then on Oak St SE from University Ave SE to East River Parkway for 1.2 miles.
- 10) A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.