

**Council Member Cam Gordon's  
Report to the Seward Neighborhood, October 25, 2017**

**Cam's Next Office Hours:**

**Thursday October 26, 10:00-11:30am, Blue Moon Café**

**Cam Gordon**

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<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.***

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- 1) Vote
- 2) Sample Ballot
- 3) "Dark Money" Comes to Minneapolis
- 4) Sanctuary City Pledge
- 5) Community Solar Gardens
- 6) Short Term Rentals
- 7) County Cooperation with ICE
- 8) Street Sweeping
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Election Day for the City election is **November 7**. People can also choose to vote before Election Day by mail and in person at the Downtown Early Vote Center, at 217 S Third St. Early voting standard voting hours will be Monday-Friday from 8am until 4:30pm but starting October 23rd, there will be expanded hours: 7am-6pm Monday-Friday; 9am-4pm Saturdays and noon-5pm Sundays. On Monday, November 6 the center will close at 5 pm. On Election Day, the 7<sup>th</sup>, the local precinct polling places will be open from 7am to 8pm. to find your polling place call 311 or visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/WHERE-TO-VOTE>.
- 2) To better prepare for voting get you sample ballot for the 2017 Municipal Election on-line via the Secretary of State's website, at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot> and via <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/BALLOT>. Enter your address and you will get an exact duplicate of your official ballot you will get when you vote.
- 3) I am very disturbed by the recent, massive and growing influx of "dark money" into the 2017 Minneapolis City election. A group wealthy individuals and organizations with large financial interests at stake are determined to muddy and to control the outcome of the City Council campaign in at least 6 separate City Council races. In the last months of our city election we are seeing thousands, probably tens or even hundreds of thousands, of dollars being spent by mostly unknown people through independent expenditures to support certain candidates. So far, it's being used to support candidates in Wards 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 11. Before election day please put me on record: I denounce this effort to influence our election outside the normal and more transparent process of campaign contributions and volunteering, and call on all those involved (including Minneapolis Works, the Downtown Council, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Minnesota Jobs Coalition as well as wealthy individual developers) to stop trying to "buy" elections in Minneapolis.
- 4) In September I was happy to sign on to The Sanctuary Platform initiated by the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) and supported by a large and growing coalition of other organizations. The platform consists of 13 concrete action items intended to better protect, defend and empower immigrants in our city. One of them, immigrant voting rights, is something I have advocated for years and another, creating City ID card ordinance, was formally approved to be taken up by a committee at the Council Meeting on October 6. You can read all 13 items and learn more about the platform at <https://mirac1.wordpress.com/sanctuary-now-platform>
- 5) The City Council has approved two more community solar garden subscription agreements to provide electricity for municipal operations. The agreements with RenaSola and Renewable Energy Partners will save the City an anticipated \$28,000 a

year for 25 years. With these agreements, the City is doing something that I'm not aware of any other entity in the Minnesota doing before. We are using our status as a customer that solar developers really want (we have great credit and purchase a lot of electricity) to ensure that low-income residents also get access to community solar. Here's the opportunity: community solar can actually \*lower\* people's electricity costs, while also supporting clean energy. This is even more important for cost-burdened households than others, because they tend to pay a higher percentage of their income for energy. And because the community solar project can be anywhere, it's just as available to people who rent as people who own a home they can put solar panels on. But the way that community solar developments are financed has left out anyone without a good credit score. That means that a lot of low-income residents can't benefit from community solar. So to help address that, in addition to buying some of each of these projects' electricity directly, the City is committing to serve as a "backstop" to low-income customers who have to stop purchasing from the community solar garden. (We don't expect to have to use this commitment very much: the gardens are highly likely to have waiting lists, and be able to go straight to a new customer.) We are also requiring that a certain percentage of each garden - 20% - must be set aside for low-income customers. The two developers, Renewable Energy Partners and RenaSola, propose gardens that could assist up to 800 low-income households each, with each household saving \$300-\$400 each year in electricity costs.

- 6) In October the Council approved new short-term rental ordinances. The new regulations will allow the City to track the number of short-term rental units in Minneapolis. Under the rules a short-term rental property registration or rental license is not required for an owner who lives at the property, rents a room and stays at the property during the rental period. A short-term rental property registration (and fee of \$46) is required for an owner who lives at the property, rents out an entire unit and leaves the property during the rental period. A short-term designation on the rental license is required for the owner of a non-occupied rental property who rents out an entire unit and only Tier 1 or Tier 2 rental licenses are eligible for this designation. A rental is considered short term if the unit is rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days. The City will begin accepting short-term rental registration and license applications Dec. 1, 2017. Additionally, short-term rental hosting platforms, which collect a fee for booking services and often provide an online platform for property owners to advertise a dwelling unit, will be required to submit an annual business license application. The annual license fee for a platform with fewer than 150 active dwelling unit listings will be \$630, and for a platform with 150 or more active listings will be \$5,000. For more information, go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections/rental/shorttermrentals>.
- 7) 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, " 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>
- 8) The four weeks fall street sweeping have begun. 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](http://www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis), [www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis](http://www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis), and [www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping](http://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.
- 9) 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.