

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward Neighborhood, January 25, 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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Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

Cam's Next Office Hours:

Monday, February 5, 9:30-11:00am, Birchwood Cafe

- 1) New Office Hours
- 2) Changes to 2018 Budget
- 3) Community Connections Conference
- 4) Stop Sign Change at 29th
- 5) New Council Structure
- 6) Uplifting Equity Efforts
- 7) Pay Increase for City Council
- 8) New Funds to Fight Climate Change
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Given the changes to the Council meeting cycle, I have changed my community office hours in the ward to Mondays. The Longfellow office hours will still be on the fourth week of the month, but will now occur on the Monday of that week and at a new location, the East Lake Library. My community office hours are now **Mondays** from 9:30-11am following this pattern: first Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St; Second Mondays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE; Third Mondays at T-Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE; and Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.
- 2) I worked with my colleagues to make a number of amendments to the mayor's proposed budget that. One was to fund two additional inspectors in the Health Department's Food Lodging and Pools division to keep pass with the increasing demand. The amendment dedicated funding for two new inspectors for next year, and directed staff to revisit our fee structures to make sure the fees we charge are covering our costs. My second was to increase funding for Senior Support Services from \$20,000 to \$60,000, which could result in additional resources going the Seward Longfellow Healthy Senior programs.
- 3) The 2018 Community Connections Conference will be held at the Convention Center on Saturday, Feb. 10. The conference is free and will include speakers, exhibitors and learning labs, including topics ranging from immigration to tenant rights as well as lunch from local caterers. I invite you to join me and other others to learn more about our neighborhoods, community partnerships, social justice initiatives and ways to shape local government policies. Find out more here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/conf/>
- 4) In keeping with the Seward Neighborhood Group's stated position and the desire of nearby residents, City Public Works staff have "flipped" the stop sign at 29th Ave S and 27th St E so that 27th now stops, rather than 29th. I view this as a safety improvement, and also part of making the 29th Ave S bike boulevard as comfortable, safe and convenient as possible.

- 5) The new City Council has been inaugurated, and has elected a new set of leaders and adopted a new structure. Council Member Lisa Bender was elected Council President, Council Member Andrea Jenkins was elected Vice President, Council Member Andrew Johnson was elected Majority Leader and I as Minority Leader. A new set of committees was created, including a new Housing Policy and Development committee which I will chair. The committee will oversee of all policy related to the health, safety and affordability of housing and oversee all matters related to homelessness prevention, fair housing, housing opportunities, housing finance, as well as residential real estate development, redevelopment and land sales. I will vice chair the Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement committee (which is very similar to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee I chaired last term), and serve on the Transportation and Public Works, Economic Development and Regulatory Services, Zoning and Planning, and Executive committees. I am excited about this new leadership and Council structure and believe that it will help broaden power and decision-making to all members of the Council, and help us better reflect and represent the will of the people of Minneapolis.
- 6) On December 8 the Council approved three separate and significant actions that will formalize, embed and strengthen the City's ongoing work on racial equity into the next term and beyond. The first is an ordinance that CM Glidden authored that establishes a Division of Race and Equity in the Coordinator's Office and obligates the City to continue this work racial equity indefinitely. The second and third were both resolutions lead on. The first of these establishes a Racial Equity Steering Committee and charges them with creating a Racial Equity Action Plan to be completed and presented to the Council for approval in June of 2018. The last action creates a new Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee to help drive this work and provide guidance on these issues on an ongoing basis. This group of up to 19 community members will be open to all Minneapolis residents and will be central role in shaping and advancing our racial equity work in the future.
- 7) In an unusual and unexpected move, on December 15 at the last meeting of 2017, the City Council voted to increase the salaries of the Mayor and Council by \$10,000 in a one-time adjustment for 2018 and then based on average annual collective bargaining agreements for the rest of the term. This was one of the more disconcerting votes I took in 2017. While I ended up voting for it I was very concerned that it did not follow a healthy, open or transparent process and because of it I will be proposing and pushing for a new ordinance that will require future Council and Mayoral salary increases to go through a formal and public committee process that may include the establishment of an appointed commission, similar to that set up for the state legislature, to make recommendations. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this work and have always felt that my compensation for working as a Council Member has been fair and generous. For a longer explanation of this including the rationale for the raise and my reluctant decision to support it see <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2018/01/unexpected-mayor-and-council-salary.html>
- 8) Along with the budget, the Council also approved a 0.5% increase to the utility franchise fees we collect from Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy through. The fees, set by ordinance as a percentage of natural gas and electric charges, are currently 4.5 percent for residential customers, 5 percent for commercial customers, and 3 percent for industrial customers. The amount paid on a monthly bill correlates with energy use, which can vary by season. The average residential customer currently pays a franchise fee of about \$5.30 per month (about \$64 a year). The increase to the average residential customer will be about 57 cents more a month for a total franchise fee of less than \$6 a month (about \$71 a year). A report about the energy efficiency and renewable energy programs we might support with this can be found <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2017-01413>. I believe that a stable, ongoing source of funds to support this work is important. To help ensure this increase will go to clean energy efforts I successfully passed a resolution that commits the City to using the increased revenue from the franchise fees to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, policies and interventions that will serve all groups of users including homeowners, renters and rental property owners, and commercial and industrial businesses of all sizes.
- 9) 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.