

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward, February 28, 2018

Cam's Next Office Hours:

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

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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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- 1) Ward 2 and 6 Meeting on Housing Policy
- 2) Future of Neighborhood Organizations
- 3) Department Head Reappointments.
- 4) Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
- 5) Students Against Gun Violence
- 6) 2017 Approved Construction Projects
- 7) Annie Young Park
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for a community meetings focused on housing in Minneapolis with a focus particularly on Wards 2 and 6 and convened by Council Member Warsame and me It will be held at Matthews Park in the Multipurpose Room on **Thursday March 8th from 7 – 9 pm**. There we will discuss housing concerns, goals and strategies for improvement.
- 2) The public comment period on the Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap is open today, February 28th through Monday, April 30th. Comments can be submitted to NCR@minneapolismn.gov. The Roadmap lays out the framework of why the City is undertaking this initiative, explains the project timeline, proposes some recommendations for actions to be taken on polices, programs and oversight. The Roadmap offers for your consideration, three different approaches to neighborhood funding, programming and support services. We also want your creative ideas about how we can improve upon our system of neighborhoods and the services NCR provides to the community. Revenues from the Consolidated TIF will fund the CPP program through December 31, 2020 subject to annual City Council NCR budget approval. New funding is proposed to start Jan 1, 2021. At this time, these options are presented for discussion purposes only. The NCR Department and the NCEC are not making recommendations to the City Council. Recommendations to the city council will be developed after further community dialogue and work groups have taken place - anticipated final recommendations date 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 regular updates on our web-site. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>. The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold an open forum 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.
- 3) In 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. At the last Executive Committee meeting he brought forward three names for reappointment, Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works and Susan Segal for City Attorney. I supported the first two in the Committee and abstained from voting on the City Attorney. I have voted against the City Attorney's reappointment in the past and will likely do so again. On March 9th, following public hearings held at the appropriate committees, the Council will vote to approve or disapprove of these appointments. The Mayor has announced his plans to nominate David Frank and Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde the official department heads of CPED and the Coordinator's Office, respectively.

- 4) The Council has approved the details of a new position of Director for the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs that will be in the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. The new appointed position that will work support new and existing immigrant and refugee communities and residents collaborate with community stakeholders on immigration and refugee issues, and serve as resource, providing information and contacts with other community organizations serving immigrants and refugees .You can learn more about the position here <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/3311/Director,%20Office%20of%20Immigrant%20and%20Refugee%20Affairs.pdf>
- 5) In response to the Parkland shootings in Florida and ongoing concerns about gun violence in Minneapolis and beyond, 100s of students from a variety of Minneapolis Middle and High Schools marched to City Hall on February 21st to call for better regulation of fire arms. Some students addressed our Intergovernmental Relations Committee before a vote was taken to add the following to our legislative agenda: "to support legislation that bans the sale statewide of assault weapons, bump stocks, silencers, and extended magazines." To see a run-down of the City's formal position on gun legislation at the state level look here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/881/Gun%20Violence%20Prevention.pdf>. Our position on federal legislation is that "Congress and the Administration: oppose legislation that will create unsafe federal gun purchase safety standards, including legislation that removes right to carry restrictions across borders and lessens mental health criteria for gun buyers; support funding for the Center for Disease Control to resume studying the causes of gun violence; and support efforts to curb suicide rates and domestic abuse violence related to firearms." Here is a written statement from Students Against Gun Violence "In conjunction with students nationwide, we are demanding that our voices be heard, It is unacceptable that we continue to feel unsafe in schools as a result of gun violence. It is unacceptable that our representatives continue to put the interests of the NRA over our safety. We demand that our lawmakers pass regulations to make it more difficult for assaults rifles to fall in the hands of those proven to have violent intent. We urge our fellow community members to use their power in the coming election to vote our politicians who have accepted donations from/been bought by the National Rifle Association. As our representatives, we urge our city, state and federal officials to take out voices in account."
- 6) In 2017 the City approved construction projects that total of \$1.497 billion of new building investments. Following is the total valuation of building permits for the past several years -- 2000: \$1.142 billion; 2001: \$975.8 million; 2002: \$889.2 million; 2003: \$852.2 million; 2004: \$944.7 million; 2005: \$855.2 million; 2006: \$839.6 million; 2007: \$761.3 million; 2008: \$772.5 million; 2009: \$778 million; 2010: \$547.6 million; 2011: \$752.8 million; 2012: \$1.118 billion; 2013: \$1.211 billion; 2014: \$2 billion; 2015: \$1.4 billion; 2016: \$1.757 billion; 2017: \$1.497 billion. Most of the construction was for apartment buildings, commercial buildings and hotels. Last year, permits were issued for 2,530 new dwelling units, 196 new hotel rooms, including the new the Double Tree University in Ward 2 at 511 Huron Blvd SE. In 2018, 1,643 new rooms are scheduled to be added as part of 10 new hotel projects. The total permit valuation in ward two was \$106,857,415. Clearly the current trend is for more construction of housing units in the City, especially high end apartments.
- 7) On February 7th I was happy to join the Park Board at their meeting remembering and honoring Annie Young, former park commissioner who passed away in January. At the meeting the Park Board approved renaming Lower Riverside Park after her which was a request she had made while living. They are also considering renaming all of Riverside Park in her honor.
- 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.