

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 6-25-18

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Monday, July 16, 9:30-11am**

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

*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 translated or in
an alternative format, please contact
NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612- 673-
3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

People who are deaf or hard of hearing
can use a relay service to call 311 at
612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-
2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700

Rau kev pab 612-673-2800

Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay

612-673-3500.

Items:

- 1) Art and Architecture Building Development
 - 2) Thurman Blevins
 - 3) Ketamine
 - 4) 311 Now Accepting Texts
 - 5) MPD Ends Low-Level Marijuana Stings
 - 6) Comprehensive Plan
 - 7) Renewable Connect
 - 8) Tobacco 21
 - 9) Dockless Bike Share
 - 10) Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Housing
 - 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) The Planning Commission has approved the proposed Vermilion Art & Architecture Building development at 3326, 3338, and 3350 University Ave SE on June 25. I heard a lot of community perspectives on this project, both for and against. I thank everyone who reached out to me and the Prospect Park Association for convening community meetings about this project. The height is one of the biggest concerns I heard about, so I was happy to see that the approved project was reduced from 17 to 14 stories (the tallest portion is functionally 13 stories but because the 1st floor exceeds 20 feet it counts as 2 stories). People are also concerned about impacts on the nearby historic water tower. In response to my request to have the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) look at this project, the City Attorney's Office informed me that the HPC lacks any authority over the project because none of the buildings proposed to be demolished have been nominated as historic structures, or even identified as potential historic structures. Many people are concerned about the view from and to the tower, but it appears that the city currently has no legal basis to compel preservation of views. I will be exploring options for addressing this in the future. According to state statute, and because one extension has already been granted, the City must act on a project by September 27th. The last day for someone to appeal the approval of any of the land use applications is by July 5th. The project also requires a rezoning so will need City Council approval regardless of whether there is an appeal. The rezoning will likely be considered by the Zoning and Planning Committee on July 12th. You can find more information (under item 13) at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning/WCMSP-211939>
- 2) I am heartbroken that another black man, Thurman Blevins, has been killed by police in Minneapolis. The case is not being investigated by the State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Under the leadership of Fourth Ward Council Member Phillippe Cunningham, I have signed onto a statement calling for the release the body camera footage as soon as possible. I remain committed to making deep, structural changes to our public safety and criminal justice systems to prevent this kind of tragic outcome. More information about this case, when it is released, will be posted at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/records/frequent>

- 3) I am happy to announce that as of Monday, June 11th texting will be an option for reporting complaints, request services or asking questions by texting 311TXT. (311898). This will provide an alternative, especially important for those with speaking or hearing impairments who will no longer have to rely the antiquated TTY/TDD system.
- 4) I have significant concerns about the revelation that the Minneapolis Police Department has been participating with Hennepin County Medical Center staff on giving ketamine – a powerful sedative that has multiple illegal uses – to members of the public without their knowledge or consent. I applaud our Civil Rights department for their work on a report about this serious issue. I am very supportive of the Council’s directions this week to empower Civil Rights to finish this report, and to do a third-party assessment of this report after it is finished. More can be found at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00754>
- 5) Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo announced Thursday that he is discontinuing stings targeting low-level marijuana sales at the request of Mayor Jacob Frey. It came in the wake of a report prepared by the Hennepin County Public Defender’s office that between January 24 and May 24, police in sting operations had arrested 47 people for the sale of small amounts of marijuana, 46 of whom were black. <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-cops-halt-marijuana-stings-after-almost-all-arrested-were-black/484876151/>
- 6) Minneapolis 2040 comprehensive draft that has so far been provided on the web site in an interactive format, with draft plan policies organized by both goals and topics, is now also available as in a format searchable and printable PDF format. The PDF document can be found at <https://minneapolis2040.com/pdf/> and includes the same content found on the interactive web site at <https://minneapolis2040>.
- 7) In 2017 the City Council approved executing a contract with Xcel Energy for 17.8 million kWh from the Renewable Connect program where the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) electricity generated by wind and solar are assigned to the City. At that time the maximum purchase was capped at 17.8 million, but in May that was increased, so last month we modified that approval and authorized executing two new 5-year contracts totaling 42.2 million kWh. The 17.8 million kWh from that previous contract will be re-assigned under a new 10-year contract. By 2019, with the total 60.2 million kWh of Renewable Connect electricity, the City will raise the amount of renewable electricity to 85% of its annual electricity usage. This will help us reach the City's goal of 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations by 2023.
- 8) In May the City Council approved the ordinance amendment that will prohibit the sale of tobacco products to anyone who is under the age of 21. It will go into effect October 1. This ordinance came about thanks to the great work and passion of a number of great advocates, and was authored by Twelfth Ward Council Member Andrew Johnson.
- 9) The Council has amended our Bike Sharing ordinance and contract with Nice Ride Minnesota to allow them to test and phase in a new “dockless” bike sharing model this summer for full implementation next year I worked to ensure that that the service would be available throughout the city and that the ability to rent a bike would not depend on a smart phone application. You can find their business plan at https://www.niceridemn.org/_asset/jymx07/Revised-NRM-Business-Plan-Update043018.pdf
- 10) The Council has approved a resolution I authored that will establish a new Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Housing to advise city staff, the City Council and mayor on matters related to housing policy and development.. The committee will include 12 resident members appointed through an open process. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00588>. I expect the application process for this to begin later this summer. Let me know if you are interested or have questions.
- 11) 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.