

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward, June 27, 2018

**Cam's Next Office Hours:
Monday, July 2, 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.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-3737;

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-3737

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

- 1) 2018 Election Information
- 2) Thurman Blevins
- 3) Charter Change on Authority over Police
- 4) 311 Now Accepting Text Messages
- 5) Ketamine
- 6) Police Discontinue Marijuana Stings
- 7) Comprehensive Plan
- 8) City Purchases Renewable Connect
- 9) Tobacco 21
- 10) Dockless Bike Share
- 11) Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Housing
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) There will be a Primary Election held on **Tuesday August 14** this year with Early Voting in the primary running from Friday June 29, to Monday, August 13, Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm, except on Monday, August 13, when it closes at 5pm. The General Election will be held **Tuesday November 6**, with Early Voting going from Friday September 21 to Monday November 5. Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm. On Election Days the Polls are open from 7am to 8pm. People can Vote by Mail, and vote Early In-Person at the Early Vote Center at 217 S Third Street. One Ward 2 polling place is being changed this year to improve service to voters. The Ward 2 - Precinct 9 polling place is moving from the Augsburg University Oren Gateway Center to Matthews Park Recreation Center, located at 2318 29th Ave S. All registered voters in affected precincts will be notified of these reassigned poll locations via postcard notice issued by Hennepin County, set to be released on July 9. Of course, anything you can do to help inform voters of these changes is appreciated — even a simple “be sure to double-check your polling place, as some have changed this year” message is helpful. For more information visit Find this and more information at vote.minneapolismn.gov, www.facebook.com/votempls and www.twitter.com/votempls.
- 2) I am heartbroken that another black man, Thurman Blevins, has been killed by police in Minneapolis. The case is 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 very likely to give my colleagues notice of intent on an ordinance that, if passed, will put a question on this fall's ballot about giving the City Council and mayor coequal authority over the police department. I have believed for years that this would be a better setup for our city, and in the light of this most recent fatal shooting, I believe the time has come for the people of Minneapolis to make this decision.

- 4) 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.
- 5) 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>
- 6) 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/>
- 7) 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>.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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.