

Second Ward Summer 2018 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

www.facebook.com/camgordonward2

Election 2018. There will be a Primary Election held on **Tuesday, August 14** and a General Election held on November 6. People can also Vote by Mail, and vote Early In-Person at the Early Vote Center at 217 S Third Street. This year Early Voting in the primary at the Early Vote Center 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. Minneapolis voters will be able to cast ballots for the primary races for U.S. Senator, U.S. Senator, special election, United States Representative (District 5), Governor/Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Minnesota State Representative (Districts 59A, 59B, 60B, 62A and 62B), County Commissioner (Districts 2 and 4), County Sheriff and Minneapolis School Board at-large members (two seats). State law allows voters to bring materials into the polls to help complete their ballots — and the sample ballot is the single, best tool available for this purpose. By downloading and printing their sample ballots (which are customized to their specific ward and precinct), voters can practice marking their ballots. They can bring this marked-up sample ballot as a reference to the voting booth when completing their official ballots. This is the best way to reduce the time spent waiting in lines. Find sample ballots for all 132 Minneapolis precincts here: www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot. For more information visit www.vote.minneapolismn.gov, www.facebook.com/votempls and www.twitter.com/votempls. State law allows voters to bring materials into the polls to help complete their ballots — and this include a sample ballot. By downloading, printing and marking on your sample ballots that is customized to your specific ward and precinct you will have a reference to make voting easier when filling out your official ballots. Find sample ballots for all 132 Minneapolis precincts here: www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot. For more information visit www.vote.minneapolismn.gov, www.facebook.com/votempls and www.twitter.com/votempls.

New Ward 2 Polling Place. One Ward 2 polling place is being changed this year. 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**.

Draft Minneapolis 2040 PDF. In July the various City Council Committee's will formally review the policies of the draft comprehensive plan related to the work of each committee. The draft, that has been available online in an interactive format for several months, is now also available in a searchable and printable PDF format. The PDF document can be found at <https://minneapolis2040.com/pdf/> and includes the same content found on the electronic web

site version found at <https://minneapolis2040.com/>. Comments can be submitted online at the website or emailed to 2040@minneapolismn.gov. I thank everyone who has commented already and encourage everyone to check out the draft and comments with their feedback. All comments received by July 22 will be reviewed while the next draft is being developed. That draft will be available in September and I will be pushing for another round of extensive community engagement before the Council approves a final draft before the end of the year.

Thurman Blevins Killed By Police. I am deeply concerned and saddened that another person, Thurman Blevins, has been killed by police in Minneapolis. Thurman was a 31-year-old black man living in north Minneapolis. The details of his killing are unclear and the case is currently being investigated by the State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. At the request 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 have also called on the City to release all public information that it has. The Council also took powerful testimony on this issue and discussed it at a Committee of the Whole meeting in June. You can view that here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLZ_wTceZMA. I am grateful to Council Vice President Jenkins for putting this on the agenda and will continue working to improve accountability and transparency in our police department and remain deeply committed to addressing racism in our criminal justice system and to making deep, structural changes to prevent this kind of tragic outcome in the future. More information about this case, as it is released, will be posted at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/records/frequent>.

Police Department Charter Amendment. On June 29th I gave formal notice of my intention to introduce at the July 20 meeting of the City Council a new ordinance that, if approved by the Council, will put a proposed charter amendment on the ballot this November 6. If approved by the voters, it would amend Article VII Section 7.3 of the City Charter, which pertains to the authority of the Mayor over the Police Department, to give the Mayor and City Council shared authority over the Department. As written now this Charter provision puts the supervision of the police department solely in the mayor's hands, distancing it from the City Council. Unlike any other City department, the mayor is "vested with all the powers of said city connected with and incident to the establishment, maintenance, appointment, removal, discipline, control and supervision of its police force..." It is this arrangement that has made it particularly difficult for council members to fully engage and influence how we manage and assist our police officers. The Council cannot direct staff, set policy about police behavior or institute promising management practices, when the Charter gives the Council no authority over the department, except to approve the appointment of the police chief and the department's budget. This change would simplify and better align our organizational structure by making the supervision of the police department consistent with that of the other departments.

Emergency Medical Service Use of Sedatives. I was shocked to learn how the Minneapolis Police Department has been participating with Hennepin County Medical Center staff on giving the powerful sedative ketamine to members of the public without their knowledge or consent. I applaud our Civil Rights department for their outstanding work on this issue that they discovered when reviewing body camera footage. I was glad to learn that the police chief has clarified that advising medical personnel in this manner is not police policy and that the County

has said they will stop using this sedative. The Council has directed Civil Rights staff to bring the finished report back to the Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee by July 26, and to conduct a third-party peer review of the report to ensure that was done well. More can be found at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00754>

Police Stop Low Level Marijuana Stings. I commend the Hennepin County Public Defender's office who, working on behalf of Shauntez Palmer, secured information that a series of undercover operations targeting individuals with small (1-2 grams) of marijuana and a pattern of selective enforcement by the Minneapolis Police Department. They discovered that between January 24 and May 24, police in sting operations had arrested 47 people for the sale of small amounts of marijuana and 46 of them were black. I was glad to learn that, after this was revealed, Police Chief Arradondo announced that he is discontinuing stings targeting low-level marijuana sales at the request of Mayor Jacob Frey. You can learn more at <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-cops-halt-marijuana-stings-after-almost-all-arrested-were-black/484876151/>

Civilian Navigators in the Police Department. The Police department is moving forward in the hiring of for four Community Navigators. Although this is half of the number the Chief requested that I pushed for as part of last year's budget, I am glad to see the program moving forward. These civilian community engagement professionals are intended to help build relationships, trust and confidence in the work of the Department. These four will be liaisons on behalf of the MPD with the Native American, African American, Somali and Latino communities, and will likely focus first on concerns arising from issues such as the opioid epidemic and homelessness.

County Jail Contract. In response to concerns about risk of deportation posed to residents who are arrested and turned over to the County Sherriff's office as part of our contract with the County to provide jails services for all Minneapolis arrestees, and at my urging, the Council has passed a motion directing the City Coordinator, in conjunction with MPD and the City Attorney's office, to seek amendments to the contract for jail services to include provisions that promote a separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement, and protect the City's immigrant communities to the greatest extent that is consistent with federal law. You can find some background about this at <http://www.citypages.com/news/if-sheriff-insists-on-helping-immigration-councilman-wants-a-new-jail-deal/449650993> and <https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/849548981874129>

Co-Responder Pilot Program. In June the Council received a presentation and report on our Co-Responder Pilot Program. This is something I advocated for in 2016 and was glad to see included in last year's budget that funded 3 teams of co-responders. Using City funding, Hennepin County assigns two staff from their Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies (COPE) division who are paired with specially trained police officers to our Police-Mental Health Co-Responder Pilot Program which is currently in place in the Third and Fifth Precincts. The teams work to respond to situations where there may be mental health crisis to help deescalate them and prevent use of force and arrests. So far, the program has met with very promising

results and I hope to see it expanded city-wide next year. You can find more information at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/2583>

Human Trafficking Prevention. In June the City hired Shunu Shrestha, who will become the City's first senior advisor for human trafficking prevention. She will be working in the City Coordinator's Office to assist in efforts to fight sex and labor trafficking. Shrestha comes to the City after working for the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault where she oversaw the Duluth-based program's trafficking program and led the city's Trafficking Task Force. The position is funded through a two-year grant from Humanity United and the NoVo Foundation. I am hopeful that with these new resources we can do more to end the abhorrent and

Mobile Food Stores. In June the City approved an amendment to the Mobile Food Store ordinance that I authored in 2014. I fully supported the amendment proposed by Council Member Schroeder that will now allow the Mobile Stores to operate in more locations, including on city streets in eligible operating locations. Mobile Food Stores would continue to be prohibited from operating within one hundred (100) feet of a grocery store or operating farmers market, except with the express permission of that grocery store or market.

Renewable Clean Energy Contract with Xcel. In 2017 the City Council approved purchasing 17.8 million kWh of electricity from the Renewable Connect program where the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) would be kept by 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.

Pay As You Save Financing for Energy Improvements. The Council participated in a study session on a new way to finance energy upgrades to buildings with no debt and at no additional cost to energy users. The strategy is called "Pay as You Save" or inclusive financing and has been identified as a top priority by the Clean Energy Partnership. Inclusive financing allows a utility to invest directly in resource efficiency upgrades on the customer side of the meter regardless of the customer's income, credit score, or renter/owner status. You can learn more at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00618>.

Energy Technical Assistance Program (E-TAP). Using funding from the utility franchise fee increase, the City has started a pilot program of the City's Business Technical Assistance Program (B-TAP), called **E-TAP**, to promote energy cost-saving practices as methods to reduce operational costs in businesses and energy cost-savings resources to low income and racially diverse small businesses. E-TAP will hire consultants from local non-profit organizations to work with business owners to conduct energy assessments and implement energy cost-savings improvements. At this point we are seeking proposals (by June 29) from local non-profit organizations to provide direct outreach and energy cost-savings support to small businesses located in Minneapolis. We expect to start providing services to businesses in August 2018. For

more details visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/business/B-TAP> or contact daniel.bonilla@minneapolismn.gov .

311 Text. Texting is now an option for reporting complaints, requesting services or asking questions by texting 311TXT. (311898). This provides an alternative, especially important for those with speaking or hearing impairments who will no longer have to rely the older TTY/TDD system.

Workplace Advisory Committee Report. In June the Council received the 2018 progress report from the Workplace Advisory Committee that you can find at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00636>. At the meeting the Advisory committee co-chairs shared a two-year work plan that is being developed that will likely highlight addressing the serious an ongoing problem of wage theft in Minneapolis.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Winter Maintenance Study. Public Works staff are hosting an Open House to share the results of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Winter Maintenance study on Tuesday, July 10th from 4:30-7PM, at the downtown Minneapolis Central Library, 2nd Floor on the Doty Board. Please attend to learn more and share feedback on next steps and priorities so that we can do a better job of maintaining a walkable, rollable and bikable city all year long. You can learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/pedestrian/data/WCMSP-210947>

Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I was delighted to support the reappointment of Christian Huelsman, from Ward 2, to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Christian has been a resident of the City of Minneapolis for two years, commutes downtown using the bus and light rail from her apartment in Longfellow, and served as the co-chair of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee Programs & Policies Subcommittee during her first two-year term.

Your City Your Streets 2017 Report. The Council has received a report on work undertaken by Public works in 2017 as a result of the 2016 Neighborhood Park and Street Infrastructure Plans ordinance. The ordinance provides \$21.2 million per year (adjusted for inflation) annually for 20 years dedicated toward street paving. The report includes the amount of reconstruction, rehabilitation, and resurfacing work completed throughout the City, as well as work completed in prioritized areas with 50% or more people of color and 40% or more of the households with incomes less than 185% of the federal poverty threshold. The report also summarizes the amount of pedestrian and bicycle improvements made in 2017. You can find the report at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00574>

Low Power Vehicles. A public hearing was held July 10 on Council Member Reich's proposal to add a new Chapter to our code of ordinances entitled "Low Power Vehicles," to regulate the operation and sharing of low power vehicles. This is in response to the growth of shared motorized foot scooter operations in the country and globally and will help ensure that both personal and shared use of Low Power Vehicles are regulated in the City.

26th Street Bridge Closed. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is demolishing the 26th Street bridge spanning I-35W; the bridge will remain closed through mid-

November as part of the 4-year reconstruction of I-35W between 43rd Street and downtown. To stay informed about the project and provide feedback to the project team visit www.mndot.gov/35w94, call 612-284-6125, email: info@35w94.com for real-time travel information anywhere in Minnesota visit: www.511mn.org or dial 5-1-1.

Advisory Committee on Aging. Charlie Lakin has been reappointed as the Ward 2 resident member of our Advisory Committee on Aging. The Committee advises the City Council, Mayor and City Departments on matters relating to an aging population and best practices, services, programs and activities that promote a healthy and vibrant aging community in Minneapolis. I am grateful to Charles for his continued service.

State Plan To Prevent Homelessness. In May the Council received a report from the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness called Heading Home Together: Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Council then authorized the City to formally sign on as a partner to the Plan and to find opportunities to align our work to help end homelessness and make progress toward the vision, goals and principles outlined in the plan. We also directed the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development staff to identify specific actions the City of Minneapolis is taking consistent with the Action Plan and recommend future actions we could take to be aligned more closely with its goals and strategies. You can find the plan and more information at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00590>

New Housing Advisory Committee. The Council has approved a resolution I authored that will establish a new Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Housing. The purpose of this committee is to advise the Departments of Community Planning and Economic Development, Regulatory Services, Health, the Sustainability division of the City Coordinator's Office, and the City Council and mayor on matters related to housing policy and development, rental licensing, and other areas which affect the accessibility, maintenance, and development of stable, quality, sustainable, healthy, and affordable housing in Minneapolis. The committee will include 12 resident members appointed through an open process reflecting the perspectives of renters, homeowners, persons who have experienced homelessness, including youth through age 24, rental property owners and housing advocates. 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.

Housing Equity in Minneapolis. The City Council passed a resolution in June recognizing the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Federal Fair Housing Act helping kick off the "Racism, Rent and Real Estate: Fair Housing Reframed" series of events that will explore the past, present and future of housing equity in Minneapolis, highlighting the largely unrecognized history of housing discrimination in the city. Convened by the Mapping Prejudice Project, Minnesota Housing Partnership and Mill City Consulting, the series will feature events through October. The resolution notes that beginning in 1910 racially restricted covenants were placed on property titles in Minneapolis, and by the 1940s, most of the city's neighborhoods were off limits to African Americans looking to purchase homes. Learn more at <http://mhponline.org/communications/racism-rent-and-real-estate-fair-housing-reframed>

Small and Medium Multifamily Land Banking Pilot Program. The City is developing a new program that could help stabilize low to medium sized duplexes and apartment buildings and help landlords keep their rents affordable for more people. We are now seeking public comment on the proposed guidelines for the program that is being done in partnership with the Land Bank Twin Cities, Local Initiatives Support Corporation- Twin Cities, and the Family Housing Fund. The Small and Medium Multifamily Land Banking Pilot Initiative (SMMF Pilot) is aimed at 2-49 unit buildings that are occupied by low to moderate income tenants throughout Minneapolis that are particularly susceptible to market pressure resulting in property sales, increased evictions and rising rents. I am very excited to see this new program going forward that will help to remove these properties from the speculative market and restrict them as affordable for the long-term. To see the guidelines and for more information contact ester.robards@minneapolismn.gov.

Healthy Homes Month. June was National Healthy Homes Month but any time is a good time to check your home for potential health hazards and take advantage of the resources Minneapolis has to help make their homes healthier. There are grants to assist residential child care providers with health and safety needs such as lead abatement, insulation, concrete work and radon mitigation from the Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-2606. Information about grants to identify and remove lead-based paint hazards, radon mitigation and pest management can be found by calling 612-673-2584. You can find seven steps to a healthy home at www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homes/Healthy.

Year 2019 Housing Tax Credit Program Qualified Allocation Plan. The Council has approved the 2019 Approving Year 2019 Housing Tax Credit Program Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and Procedural Manual and authorized staff to move forward in issuing a Request for Proposals. This is a federal program that provides significant financial support for affordable housing in by offering a reduction in tax liability to owners and investors of eligible low income new construction, or rehabilitation of housing. Minneapolis and is expected to receive \$1,554,622 in 2019 from this source. This year the Council approved changes including the inclusion of item (8) projects that would be intended for eventual tenant ownership, eliminating the 50% threshold for units serving disabled populations, reserving the right to not award credits to an applicant with and persistent compliance violations or adverse lending positions, and adding points in our scoring system for projects that include tenant ownership and have an historic preservation element to them. The Request for Proposals is going out in July with an application deadline in August. The Joint Board meeting includes a public hearing. The Minneapolis City Council action allocating the 2019 tax credits to selected projects is expected to occur in October 2018. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00641>

Public Housing Plan. In June the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority presented their 2018 Draft Capital Plan and Strategic Vision. After received the presentation (that can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00660>) the committee voted to direct the City Attorney's Office to report to the Housing Policy & Development Committee no later than July 25 on the legal framework and relationship between the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, including a description of the Unified Participation Plan

as defined in Section 420.130 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances and what authority and responsibility of the City of Minneapolis over the MPHA.

Neighborhoods 2020 work groups. The Neighborhood and Community Relations department creating of 3 work groups focused on: 1) Community Engagement and City Departments; 2) Roles of the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission and NRP Policy Board; and 3) Neighborhood Organizations. From June to August, groups will develop policy, and from August to November, they will solicit public comment on their drafts. Learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>.

Tobacco Sales Age Raised to 21. The City Council has 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. Minneapolis joins 7 other Minnesota cities who have raised the tobacco sales age to 21: Bloomington, Edina, Falcon Heights, North Mankato, Plymouth, Shoreview and St. Louis Park.

Minimum Wage Increases. On July 1, 2018, the minimum wage in Minneapolis went up to \$10.25 for small employers and \$11.25 for large employers. The Minneapolis minimum wage defines “small” businesses as those with 100 or fewer employees and “large” businesses as those with more than 100 employees. The minimum wage ordinance applies to people working in Minneapolis. Workers who work fewer than two hours in Minneapolis in a week are not covered by the ordinance. Tips and gratuities do not count toward payment of a minimum wage. The City’s Department of Civil Rights oversees enforcement of the municipal minimum wage, and workers are encouraged to report violations. For more information about the ordinance, visit minimumwage.minneapolismn.gov. For additional questions call 311 or email minwage@minneapolismn.gov.

Violence Prevention. I have authored and the Council has unanimously approved a Resolution that will establish a new Violence Prevention Steering Committee to replace the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. This will broaden the scope of the group and means that Violence (not just youth violence) is now clearly acknowledged and will be worked on, as a public health issue in the City. It will also help us better coordinate and support several major efforts underway by several departments to prevent violence in Minneapolis. It will serve as an advisory board to the City Council to advise the Council and Mayor on all matters related to violence reduction and prevention in Minneapolis and oversee the City’s comprehensive violence prevention strategic plan and its implementation.

Support for New Fathers. Following up on research findings from the Focus on Fathers project, the City is expanding our home visiting nurse program for pregnant women and infants later this year to include connecting fathers to services such as education and job training, employment skills, mental health and parenting skills. The program provides home nurse visits for families at high risk for premature births, low birth weight, infant mortality, child maltreatment, childhood injury, and maternal low education and income and high unemployment. City research found with a pilot group that with these services, the fathers were significantly more likely to get help improving job skills, dealing with stress, caring for the

baby and enrolling in school before the birth. The research also found that when fathers received all the help they wanted, the mothers were significantly more likely to show improvement on a composite scale of psychological and social risk. The program goals include: fewer preterm deliveries, improved birth weights, fewer mothers using tobacco and other substances, more children breastfeeding, more infants up-to-date on immunizations by 6 months of age, and parents who better understand child development and how to assist their children successfully through the stages. The City will partner with the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association (MVNA) and the Goodwill-Easter Seals FATHER Project to deliver nurse home visiting services and fatherhood advocacy work.

Protect Local Bees. For planting season, the City is asking all gardeners, landscapers and farmers to protect pollinators by avoiding pesticides that poison bees, butterflies and other pollinators. This includes not buying plants that are already treated. Protecting pollinators also means landscaping or gardening with the kinds of plants that nourish pollinators. Pollinator populations are in sharp decline because of an ongoing loss of plants that feed and shelter them combined with a large-scale expansion of pesticide use. A 2015 resolution (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-172964.pdf>) commits the City to not using pesticides and encourages property owners to do the same. Alternatives to pesticides can cost less while dramatically boosting habitat for pollinators. Find more resources and more information about how to protect pollinators here: www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/bees.

Demolition Ordinances. Council Members Cunningham and Reich have introduced the subject matter of amending air pollution, environmental protection and building code ordinances to improve waste reduction and health practices in the demolition of residential dwellings.

Innovative and Emerging Small Business Pilot Permit ordinance. Council Member Andrew Johnson has moved forward an ordinance creating a new “Innovative and Emerging Small Business Pilot” permit type, to bridge the gap between a great business venture and managing health and safety issues which require licensure. Introduced by the City’s Innovation Team, this permit allows small business owners with novel ideas to pursue their endeavors while the City considers amending codes that would otherwise restrict their business operations. All permits will be reviewed by the Minneapolis City Council and operating conditions may be assigned to mitigate liability issues. No permit will waive food safety or alcohol related regulations. Each permit and applicant will be evaluated. The proposed permit fee is \$186. A permit will be valid for one year.

Section 8 Anti-discrimination Ordinance. I was very disappointed to see that a judge has agreed with the group of landlords decided to bring a lawsuit against the City to prevent us from implementing the City’s amended civil rights ordinance prohibiting public assistance discrimination in housing, including discrimination against renters who participate in the Section 8 program. The [housing discrimination amendments](#) to the civil rights ordinance, approved by the City Council in March 2017, prohibit landlords from denying public assistance participants the opportunity to apply for available housing, or refusing to rent to potential tenants because of the requirements of a public assistance program. I am hopeful that we will

win an appeal. You can see the ruling at

<http://stmedia.startribune.com/documents/Ruling+on+Section+8+ordinance.pdf>

City of Richfield v. Law Enforcement Services. The Council has authorized the City Attorney to provide an amicus brief in the case pending before the Minnesota Supreme Court of the City of Richfield v. Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. in support of transparency and accountability of law enforcement. In this case the City of Richfield terminated a police officer after an internal investigation concluded that the officer used excessive force; failed to report it and violated his training and the standards of conduct expected of a police officer. The termination was grieved and the arbitrator reinstated the police officer. Richfield filed a motion to vacate the arbitration award, which the district court denied. On an appeal by Richfield, the Court of Appeals agreed with them and determined that the termination should be allowed, but the union appealed that decision to the Minnesota Supreme Court who has agreed to hear the case. So, the City will be sending a report to the state Supreme Court supporting the City of Richfield and the Court of Appeals decision.

U.S. Virgin Islands Hurricanes. Up to 10 City employees are being deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands as part of the recovery effort following hurricanes Irma and Maria. The employees, who are all volunteering for this effort, will help inspect buildings and plan new construction in the storm-damaged territory. As with Puerto Rico and other areas, the U.S. Virgin Islands suffered severe damage when the back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes cut through the Caribbean last September. This effort is part of an interstate mutual aid agreement called the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The costs of this deployment will be reimbursed by the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Cuba Resolution. In June the City voted to join other cities across the country in calling on the U.S. government to build a new, cooperative relationship with Cuba and end the embargo and travel restrictions to the country. In 2014, former President Obama reestablished diplomatic relations with Cuba, but President Trump has implemented tighter restrictions on travel and trade with Cuba, cut staff at the U.S. Embassy in Havana and expelled Cuban diplomats from Washington, D.C The resolution, that I co-authored with Council Members Jenkins and Johnson, urges President Trump and to renew engagement of negotiations with the Cuban government to immediately end all aspects of the United States' embargo against Cuba including restrictions on travel to Cuba by US citizens. It can be found at [https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/4833/Minneapolis%20Cuba%20resolution%20final%20\(1\).pdf](https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/4833/Minneapolis%20Cuba%20resolution%20final%20(1).pdf))

Sister Cities Celebration. You are invited to join the 11th annual Sister Cities celebration on Sunday, July 22 from 1-5 p.m. at the Nicollet Island Pavilion. There will be entertainment, presentations and displays where people can learn about our city's twelve sister cities.

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. The City has hired Michelle Cecilia Rivero as the first director of the recently created Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. She brings more than 18 years of immigration law experience to the office. Housed within the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR), the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will

provide guidance to elected leaders, policy makers and City staff on immigration and refugee issues. It will recommend policies to the City Council and provide input and feedback to the City departments on program development and access to City resources. The office will work with the City's Department of Intergovernmental Relations to coordinate and promote the City's legislative priorities on immigration-related matters.

World Refugee Day. The Council passed a resolution declaring June 20 World Refugee Day in the City of Minneapolis and joined "with thousands of other local communities across the world and with refugees and their families, friends, and allies to commemorate the millions of men, women, and children forced to flee their homes and seek shelter as the result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and terror;" and we honored "the numerous contributions offered to this community by its refugees" and pledged "to continue support for refugees through housing, employment, healthcare, and meaningful community connections." You can read the full resolution at

https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/1258/World%20Refugee%20Day_061518.pdf

Honoring the Life of Rhoda Gilman. I was sorry to learn of the passing of Rhoda Gilman but was happy to author and present a resolution honoring her at her memorial service in Southwest Minneapolis. Rhoda was an author, state historian and political activist who "exemplified the best of the state's long protest tradition, demonstrating a radical belief about the best of what was possible while remaining practical in advancing positive, lasting change "You can read the full resolution at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00654>

Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha. Please join me at Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha on Sunday, July 22nd. Open Streets Franklin will be held on August 26th. To learn more and see all the schedule events visit www.openstreetsmpls.org.

Bunge Tower. Work is well underway at the old Bunge grain elevator site where demolition of the grain elevators is complete and construction is beginning at the Riverton's first phase of the project. I was sorry to learn that there was a fire at the Bunge Tower head house but relieved that it was put out without significant damage. My understanding is that was started by demolition equipment that overheated and caught fire while it was being used

<http://www.mndaily.com/article/2018/06/n-fire-in-southeast-comos-bunge-tower>

10th Avenue Bridge. The Council will likely approve the layout in July for the 10th Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project and the City staff will move ahead with plans to renovate the 10th Ave Bridge that has needed repair for several years now. An open house about the project was held in June and construction will begin in the Spring of 2019, and will continue into 2020. The proposed project will repair areas of significant deterioration under the deck and replace the deck on the arch span segment. In addition to and in coordination with the bridge rehabilitation, the existing steel water main will be removed from the bridge structure and a new water main will be installed under the Mississippi River. The new layout will reduce the traffic lanes from four to two, add a 12-foot sidewalk on the west side of the roadway, add a 13-foot protected bikeway on the east side, and widen the existing sidewalk on the east side from eight to ten feet. The sidewalks on both sides of the bridge would be raised six-inches

above the roadway and the bikeway is proposed to be separated by a 6-inch tall and two-foot wide concrete curb. The proposed layout fills the existing half-mile sidewalk gap on the west of the bridge and the proposed bikeway design is compatible with the University of Minnesota Protected Bikeways Project layout. An ornate concrete railing will be added at the sidewalks edge replicating the bridge's original railing with new light poles added along the railing. Minimal work is expected at the south and north approach segments where existing additional turn lanes will remain. You can find the design and other details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00797>

Minnehaha Academy. Following several modifications to the original proposal, on May 25th the City Council voted unanimously to approve the amended Minnehaha Academy reconstruction project. The approved plan included several conditions, some added at the Planning Commission meeting and some at the Council, that are intended to help address community concerns about height, placement of the new buildings, traffic, parking, bird safety, tree loss, habitat preservation, light pollution, and protection of any potential historical resources. Work will go over this summer and for the next year with hopes of having the new buildings completed by September 2019. Having a school in a mostly residential urban neighborhood near a unique national recreation area and natural treasure poses burdens, inconveniences and risks. By listening to one another and considering all perspectives, I hope that we have addressed the most serious concerns. I want to thank everyone who contacted my office about this. I believe that this level of engagement helped make it a better project, and reduced the impacts that near neighbors were most concerned about. For more details on the City process and approved plans and conditions visit <https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/964392330389793> <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00589> . For more information on the construction phase visit www.minnehaharebuilds.com

Art and Architecture Development. The Planning Commission approved the proposed Art & Architecture Building development by Vermilion 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. Still I have reached out to one of the HPC co-chairs and am waiting to hear back from him. 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 preservations 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 project has been appealed to the City Council, and the appeal will be heard at the Zoning and Planning committee on July 26th. The project also requires a

rezoning so will need City Council approval for that as well. 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>.

Business Licenses in Ward 2. Several business licenses were approved for Ward 2 businesses in June. These include a liquor store license for Fresh Thyme Farmers Market at 24 30th Avenue SE, as well as “on sale” (for consumption at the licensed premises) liquor licenses for Stub and Herbs at 227 Oak St SE, Bar Luchador at 825 Washington Ave SE, Sporty’s Bar and Grill at 2124 Como Ave. SE, the Hexagon at 2600 27th Ave SE, as well as a business license renewal for Juba Coffee at 2927 Lake St. E.

Ward 2 Homicide. I was very disturbed to learn of an apparent homicide in the second ward July 1 when officers responded to call in the stadium village area. Derrick Geschick, 27, of Roseville died of blunt-force injuries following a fight. Preliminary investigation indicates that the two encountered each other at Sally’s Saloon earlier and later left the bar and went to SE University and Oak Street where the altercation became physical.

Marsha Harvey. I was saddened to hear about the passing of Marsha Harvey who was found deceased on May 28 in the shed that she has lived in for the past 20 to 30 years under the 10th Ave Bridge. She was a talented violinist and a long standing, well known member of the community on the West Bank. Her former partner “Chester”, who passed in 2015, was also very well known. The Hard Times have indicated that they may have an event to remember Marsha and honor her passing but details unknown at this time.

Alley Resurfacing. There will be one stretch of alley resurfaced in Ward 2 this summer, from 35th Ave S to 37th Ave S between 25th St E and Seabury Ave

West Bank History Walking Tour. The Minnesota Historical Society is offering tours focused on West Bank music history this summer. Each tour will start at the Carlson School of Management, in Minneapolis. The first was on Saturday June 30 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, the second will be on Saturday July 21 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm, and the third will be on Saturday August 25 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. To purchase tickets and for more information see http://www.mnhs.org/calendar?s=7728&utm_source=Minnesota+Historical+Society&utm_campaign=f511a039d1-PROGRAMS_EVENTS_EMAIL_2018_06_21&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9094517971-f511a039d1-46609923&mc_cid=f511a039d1&mc_eid=4370764f59.

New Apartment on Riverside and 8th. In June the Planning Commission approved Reuter Walton Development’s land use applications for the properties located at 2506 and 2510 Riverside Ave, and 2514, 2516 2518 and 2522 8th St. The plans include the demolition of the existing buildings and construction of a new 6-story residential building with 85 dwelling units and 55 within 1 level of underground and 1 level of at-grade enclosed parking. The building front on Riverside and 8th will have a residential fitness room, lounge, lobby, potential meeting space and bike storage. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning/WCMSP-211463> to find the Commission actions and staff report.

2628 Essex St. The land use applications to allow for the new construction of 32-unit multiple-family dwelling, located at 2628 Essex St SE, in the R5 Multiple-Family District were approved in June along with several variances needed to increase the maximum gross floor area, reduce setbacks, and allow parking under a portion of the building where a first floor would typically be located. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning/WCMSP-211463> for more information.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. Several board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this spring. People can apply and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. Potential applicants can find more information at 612-673-2216 or OpenAppointments@minneapolismn.gov.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open Community “Office Hours” in the ward every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

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.

Cam Gordon
Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward
673-2202, 296-0579
cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2>
<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>