

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood September 4, 2018

### Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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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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**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:  
Monday, September 10, 9:30-11:00am  
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

- 1) 2019 Budget
- 2) 2019 Budget Process
- 3) Open Streets
- 4) Primary Election Results
- 5) General Election
- 6) Election Judges Needed
- 7) Inclusionary Zoning
- 8) Police Charter Amendment Next Steps
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) There On August 5, Mayor Frey presented his 2019 proposed budget. He is recommending a budget for all City funds of \$1.6 billion. This \$139.1 million, or 9.8 percent, more than the 2018 budget. The Mayor is recommending an overall increase of 5.63% in the property tax levy for the City and its independent boards (including their respective requests for funding for their own budgets), raising the total amount levied by \$18.7 million, from \$331.2 million in 2018 to \$349.9 million in 2019. This levy increase will not mean a tax increase for everyone because the total tax base increased by more than 10%. Most noteworthy, the recommended budget includes \$40 million to support affordable housing in 2019. I was glad to see that the Mayor chose to expand funding for some programs I fought hard to get and keep in the budget in years past, including funding of the Group Violence Intervention to \$660,000; increased funding for the Business Technical Assistance \$597,000; over \$1 million towards energy and climate change programs; added funds for the co-responder program; funds to add a staff to the Division of Race and Equity, and additional money for the Safe Routes to School Program and protected bikeways. The Mayor is also proposing to fund new initiatives, including \$50,000 to support the opioid task-force; \$200,000 for the development of a municipal ID program; \$350,000 to ensure a fair 2020 Census; over \$1 million in increased funding to the Police Department to 'civilianize' 8 positions which frees up sworn officers and allows for more efficient work by specially trained civilians; \$200,000 to the Civil Rights Labor Standards Enforcement Division for expanded outreach and investigators to ensure that workers are paid their fair wage. More information and the complete budget is available online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/>.
- 2) You can see the full calendar of the 2019 budget process at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-calendar> and make comments online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>. The four times for public comment are: Public Hearing on the Maximum Property tax Levy on **September 12** before the Board of Estimate and Taxation at 5:05 pm; public comment before the City Council on **November 1 at 9:00 am** to noon; Public Hearing before the City Council on **November 28 at 6:05 pm**; and, the final Public Hearing before the Council on **December 5** at 6:05 pm. All the budget meeting and hearings will take place in the City Council Chambers, room 317, in City Hall, 350 So 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

- 3) Please join me at the last Ward 2 Open Streets of the season, the University of Minnesota + Motley Open Streets event that will be held on **Sunday, September 30th** from 11am - 5pm along 14th Ave SE, University Ave SE, and Oak St SE. To learn more and see all the scheduled events visit [www.openstreetsmpls.org](http://www.openstreetsmpls.org).
- 4) Minneapolis voters set a new record for the highest number of voters voting in a primary election. A total of 101,266 people voted and this is the highest turnout in a primary since 1968, as far back as our electronic records go. Special congratulations to Second Ward resident, State Representative Ilhan Omar for securing her party's position on the ballot in November. I also offer my congratulations to Mohamud Noor and Joseph Patino who won the DFL and Republican primaries for State Representative for 60B (which includes much of the second ward); to Peter McLaughlin and Angela Conley who won the nonpartisan primary runoff for County Commission of District 4, to Dave Hutch and Rich Stanek who won the nonpartisan primary runoff for Sheriff, and all the candidates who made it through the primary. I am also grateful for all the candidates who ran for office.
- 5) 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. The Council has approved operating up to five Early Voting Centers, including the downtown site that was operating for the primary. I have recently heard from staff that an early vote center will be on University Avenue on the U of M East Bank campus. Find sample ballots for all 132 Minneapolis precincts here: [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot). For more information visit [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov), [www.facebook.com/votempls](https://www.facebook.com/votempls) and [www.twitter.com/votempls](https://www.twitter.com/votempls).
- 6) The City needs temporary election judges from October 9 to November 9 to train and staff Early Vote Centers for the 2018 General Election. Second-language fluency in Spanish, Hmong, Oromo, or Somali particularly desired. Fill out the application at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5kG8utWbCZyKz2BiO43MfvjZBPU9vtyznbVO5K2hoB4QHVw/viewform>.
- 7) The Housing Policy and Development committee received a very informative report from Community Planning and Economic Development staff and the Grounded Solutions Network on implementing Inclusionary Zoning in Minneapolis. Inclusionary Zoning is a concept that requires a certain number or percentage of units in new developments to be affordable at a certain established level of affordability for a certain period of time. The great news is that this appears to be feasible in our city. There are multiple options for how we could implement it, each with its own pros and cons. After receiving the report, Council Members Bender, Fletcher and Schroeder moved a staff direction to continue the work on this important topic. You can see the report here: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/1446/HPD%20committee%20presentation%2008.21.18.pdf>
- 8) In early August, after the Council approved referring a ballot initiative that (if approved by the voters) could have amended the Minneapolis Charter to give the Council and Mayor a more balanced and shared policymaking authority and oversight of the police department, the Charter Commission voted to study the Charter Amendment proposal through the remainder of this year. This effectively means that it will not be on the ballot this year. I remain convinced that the charter provision that puts the supervision of the police department almost entirely in the mayor's hands needs to be changed and I believe that their action may still make that, or some other similar positive reform, possible in the future. In their decision not to respond to the Council on a short time line and likely take the full 150 days allowed them by state law to consider the proposal, the Charter Commission committed to study the issue and hold public hearings on it. They also voted to create a work group that has already started meeting to review the current oversight in Minneapolis, and State laws regarding management of the police department and practices in comparable-sized jurisdictions. They will also hold at least three public hearings to gather public input/feedback on the proposal, with the first being coordinated in conjunction with the Charter Commission's regular meeting in on Wednesday, **September 5**, at 4 pm in City Hall. A final report with any recommendations with recommendations is due to the full Charter Commission no later than January 2, 2019.
- 9) 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.