

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward, August 22, 2018

Cam's Next Office Hours:

Monday, September 3, 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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- 1) 2019 Budget
- 2) Budget Calendar
- 3) Primary Election Results.
- 4) Federal Immigration Family Separation Policy
- 5) Public Housing Authority Ordinance
- 6) Police Department Charter Amendment
- 7) Small and Medium Multifamily Land Banking Pilot Program
- 8) Violence Prevention
- 9) Open Streets Franklin.
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

1. On August 5 Mayor Frey presented his 2019 proposed budget. He is proposing a 5.6% increase to the total amount of taxes the City will collect citywide. This levy increase will not mean a tax increase for everyone because the total tax base increased by more than 10%. For example, for a property's value that did not increase from 2018, this will result in a 4% decrease in the City's tax bill. For a property whose value increased by 10%, the increase will be 6.5%. Highlights in the proposed budget include 21.6 million towards the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, 3.4 million for Affordable Housing Preservation, 5 million towards affordable homeownership on City owned lots, 3.3 million towards a new Stable Homes, Stable Schools collaborative with Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Housing and Hennepin county. I was also glad to see that the Mayor has proposed to increase funding for the Group Violence Intervention program to \$660,000 to add coverage to the 3rd Precinct in addition to the 4th for the Business Technical Assistance to \$597,000; over 1 million dollars towards energy programs; for the co-responder program to include an additional precinct; \$400,000 to the Safe Routes to School Program; and \$1 million to protected bikeways. More information and the complete budget is available online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/>
2. In the months ahead there will be a series of presentations on department budget, a hearing and approval of levy by the Board of Estimate and Taxation, a meeting for Council Member amendments to be considered on November 30, two public hearings before the Council on November 28 and December 5, and approval of a 2019 budget following the hearing on December 5. You can see the full calendar at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-calendar> and make comments online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>.
3. Minneapolis voters set a new record for voting in a primary election with 101,266 people voting --- the highest turnout in a primary since 1968, as far back as our electronic records go (1968). Results have been are posted at <https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/20180814>. Congratulations to 2nd Ward resident and State Rep Ilhan Omar for securing her party's position on the ballot in November in her race for U.S. Congress, 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), and to Peter McLaughlin and Angela Conley who won the nonpartisan primary run off for County Commission of District 4, and all the candidates who made it through the primary. I am grateful for all the candidates who ran for office. It is vital to the health of our democracy to have people seeking office, campaigning and their contribution was enormous.

4. The City Council and Mayor have voted to authorize the City to join the local government amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs in the case of Washington State v. United States, and authorizing the City Attorney's Office to take all steps necessary to join in support of this amicus brief. The lawsuit has been filed by several states in the case of Washington State v. United States, to challenge the constitutionality of the family separation policy and President Trump's new executive order meant to replace it.
5. In July the Council received report on the City's legal relationship with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. This quasi-independent entity was authorized by federal, state and created by a city ordinance that was last reviewed and amended in 1996 and some aspects are clearly out of date and could use improvement. In response to I am moving forward with proposals for amending this part of the code to clarify Council oversight and authority as well as better define civic participation.
6. 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 policy-making authority and oversight of the police department, the Charter Commission voted to study the Charter Amendment proposal though 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.
7. The Housing Police and Development Committee has approved 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. The Small and Medium Multifamily Land Banking Pilot Initiative (SMMF Pilot) would be done with Land Bank Twin Cities, Local Initiatives Support Corporation- Twin Cities, and the Family Housing Fund. It is aimed at 2-49 unit buildings that are occupied by low to moderate income tenants in Minneapolis that are particularly susceptible to market pressure resulting in property sales, increased evictions and rising rents. This will help to remove these properties from the speculative market and restrict them as affordable for the long-term.
8. 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.
9. Please join me at Franklin Ave Open Streets on Sunday August 26th from 11am – 5pm. During that time Franklin Avenue will be closed to motor vehicle traffic but fully open for walking, biking, rolling, dancing and playing in the streets. Come celebrate our city and support local businesses like Bees Kneez, Fun City Dogs, Café Racer, Chef Shack, the Vine Arts Center and many more. To learn more and see all the scheduled events visit www.openstreetsmpls.org.
10. The City needs temporary election judges up to full-time from October 9 to November 9, 2018 to work at multiple Early Vote Centers for the 2018 General Election. Election team members will train for up to three weeks, then serve voters during the period of Tuesday, October 30 through Monday, November 5, including the weekend. For more inform see <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges/seasonal>
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.