

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 7-19-18

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:  
Monday, July 23, 9:30-11:00am  
East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St**

### **Cam Gordon**

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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 translated or in an alternative format, please contact [NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto: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.

### **Items:**

- 1) Open Streets This Sunday, July 22
  - 2) Charter Change on Policing
  - 3) 2018 Elections
  - 4) Comprehensive Plan – Next Steps
  - 5) Police Killing of Thurman Blevins
  - 6) City Purchase of Renewable Electricity
  - 7) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) Please join me at Open Streets Lake + Minnehaha on **Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Open Streets Franklin will be held on August 26<sup>th</sup>. To learn more and see all the schedule events visit [www.openstreetsmpls.org](http://www.openstreetsmpls.org).
- 2) 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.
- 3) In July the various City Council Committees 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](mailto: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.

- 4) 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](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). 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](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).
- 5) 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](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>.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.