

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward, July 25, 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.***

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- 1) Charter Change on Authority over Police
- 2) Safety Concerns in Seward
- 3) Memorial Ride for Hailu Degaga
- 4) Low Power Vehicles
- 5) National Night Out
- 6) Residential Energy Disclosure
- 7) Primary Election Day – August 14
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has voted 10-2 on July 20 to introduce an 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. A joint meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations and Public Safety and Emergency Management committees will take public comment about this topic on **Wednesday, August 1** at 2:30pm in Council Chambers, room 317 of City Hall, 350 S 5th St.
- 2) I want to thank the Seward Neighborhood Group for organizing two well-attended meetings about ongoing public safety concerns in a few specific parts of Seward, including South 9th Street and Evergreen Drive. I am working with Council Member Warsame and the Third Precinct to ensure that these areas receive the focus that they need. I hope that people will remain engaged, and that we can find creative and effective solutions for these very real concerns.
- 3) Thank you to the many Seward residents who joined in a memorial ride this past weekend for Hailu Degaga, who was killed on a bicycle on 26th Ave S and 22nd St E. My office will continue to work to increase the safety of the most vulnerable road users, especially people walking and biking. I'm very interested to see the solutions that Hennepin County will suggest for intersections in Seward, and to see whether this particular spot may be on their list for improvements.

- 4) The Council has voted to create a license type for “low power vehicles,” and will be discussing a pilot program to allow hundreds of battery-operated scooters throughout the city, available for people to rent with a mobile phone app. They are subject to City requirements, such as not blocking sidewalks.
- 5) This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, **August 7**. Registering a National Night Out event and applying to close a street or alley is a single online process. People can also register their events and apply for street closure by calling 311. The deadline to apply for a no cost street or alley closure is **July 24**, from the 24th to the 30th the cost is \$100 and July 30th is the last day to apply. As with many past National Night Outs, Minneapolis was ranked No. 1 among all U.S. cities larger than 300,000 people in 2017. Find out more about National Night Out at www.minneapolismn.gov/nno.
- 6) On Monday, July 23, I directed Sustainability staff to work with staff from the Regulatory Services, Health, and Community Planning and Economic Development departments to come up with a set of proposals on residential energy disclosure. We have had a successful energy benchmarking ordinance in place for commercial buildings for several years, and these proposals would broaden energy disclosure to residences. Some of the potential requirements I know are being considered are energy benchmarking in large multifamily buildings, past energy use disclosure in smaller rental buildings, and inclusion of energy performance information in the required Truth in Sale of Housing (TISH) inspections that happen with home sales. I look forward to working more on these topics, which I believe could help us reduce carbon emissions while reducing the energy cost burden on Minneapolis residents.
- 7) 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. 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.
- 8) 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.