

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 11-26-18

### Cam Gordon

City Council Member  
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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People who are deaf or hard of hearing  
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612-673-3500.

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE  
Monday, December 17, 9:30-11am**

### Items:

- 1) 2018 General Election
  - 2) Hennepin County Jail Resolution
  - 3) Staple Food Ordinance Amendments
  - 4) Comprehensive Plan Amendments
  - 5) 2019 Budget
  - 6) Municipal ID
  - 7) District Energy System Blocked by Met Council
  - 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) A total of 207,114 ballots were cast in Minneapolis in this year's election. That means that 76% of all registered voters and 67.7% of the total number of citizens of voting age voted. Turnout in Ward 2 was 73% of registered voters, with 16,745 people voting. Three Ward 2 precincts had turnouts of over 80%, with precinct 2-8 (in the Cooper area) topping the list at 87%! I extend my thanks to everyone who ran for office, campaigned, voted and participated in any way in this year's elections, including our election staff and all those who worked as elections judges. My condolences to those who lost and my heartfelt congratulations to those candidates who won, including the 2nd Ward's own Ilhan Omar whose successful run for US Representative to Congress for the 5th District made history as well as Mohamud Noor who will be our new State Representative for 60B, Jim Dannie who was re-elected to Representative for 63A, Angela Conley who will be our new County Commissioner for District 4, Siad Ali and Jenny Arneson who were re-elected to the School Board for District 3 and 1, Kimberly Caprini and Josh Pauly as at-large school board members, Dave Hutch who will become the new County Sheriff, Mike Freeman re-elected as County Attorney and all the other local and statewide candidates who were successfully elected on November 6th. I was also glad to see that the school district funding measures and the charter amendment on liquor license area restrictions also passed. You can find the voter turnout statistics at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/resources/turnout> and all the elections results here <https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/>.
- 2) The Council has unanimously passed a resolution, that I authored with Council member Cano, proposing amendments to the City's contract with the Hennepin County Jail to improve procedures for Minneapolis arrestees. I view this as an important step in better protecting our residents and helping make sure that our "separation ordinance" has real meaning by changing the pro-deportation practices that have been operating at the jail in recent years. The County gets over \$1,500,000 a year from the city taxpayers for jail services and it is time that we expect those service to reflect our values, fit into our laws and protect our citizens from unfair and unjust detainment or deportation. The resolution lays out a clear set of expectations and amendments the Council unanimously want incorporated into the contract. I look forward to City staff renegotiating the contract with the new Sheriff, Dave Hutch.
- 3) Based on feedback from some stores, as well as research from City staff and the University of Minnesota, I have drafted amendments to our staple foods ordinance that will simplify the requirements and no longer require grocery stores to carry cheese or dairy products. To learn more visit <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01217>.

- 4) After a public hearing and many amendments at the Planning Commission and a lengthy public hearing before the City Council on November 14, the Council met today to make our amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. I believe that as currently written this plan offered a promising path forward to help us prepare thoughtfully for the upcoming population growth while preserving what is best about our communities, reducing racial and economic disparities, and addressing climate change. I also believed it could be improved, so I brought forward several amendments, including 6 land use/ built form map amendments, 4 new policies and 25 smaller amendments to existing policies. My amendments are available for review on the Second Ward website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/agenda/wcmsp-215506.pdf>. Following the plan's approval, I will begin working to implement the strategies to reach the goals most aligned with my values and the present and future needs of the people of Minneapolis and Ward 2. At the same time, I will work to put in place policies, regulations, and resources to manage the growth and development called out in the plan in a way that provides real community benefits to the people in Minneapolis and protects what we appreciate most about our neighborhoods and city. I thank everyone who has shared feedback so far. I share some of the fears I heard and understand that people are worried about how market forces may lead to undesirable consequences. I will work to use our legal authority and create the tools we need to safe guard against these. I have also share a great deal of the optimism and hope I heard about the plan and the support for many of the strategies and changes it outlines. I am confident that we can find a balance: first in the final amendments we will be making in the weeks ahead, and then in the careful implementation we will pursue in the months that follow. It will be a balance that will both protect us from seeing the worst fears we have heard from many opposed to the plan and push us to realize the highest hopes we have heard from those supporting it. You can keep up on the plan over the last few weeks of changes at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00770>. More general information is also available at <https://minneapolis2040.com/>.
- 5) The Council is deliberating on the Mayor's proposed 2019 budget of \$1.6 billion, which is \$139.1 million (or 9.8%) more than this year's budget. This includes an increase of 5.63% in the property tax levy, raising the total amount levied by \$18.7 million, to \$349.9 million in 2019. I expect many Ward 2 property owners to see a property tax increase, but this levy increase will not mean a tax increase for everyone because the total tax base increased by more than 10%. The budget is available online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/>. You can make comments online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>. A Public Hearing on the budget was held on November 1 and additional hearings before will be on Wednesday **November 28 at 6:05 pm**; and **December 5 at 6:05 pm** in room 317, in City Hall, 350 So 5th Street. I am working on several budget amendments. First, I am concerned that the Mayor is not proposing to make permanent the two health inspectors added with one-time funding last year. I believe these positions need to be funded in an ongoing way. Second, I want to expand funding for co-responders so that teams can be deployed in more precincts, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Third, I am convinced that we need an additional civilian investigator to investigate Police misconduct complaints in the Civil Rights Department. Fourth, I am working to see if I can fund funding for Youth Outreach Workers to help serve the Cedar Riverside and Seward Areas where the need appears to be growing. I am also concerned that there is no funding set aside for neighborhood organizations in any of the 5-year projections. While funding will be stable for 2019, as the Tax Increment District is set to end in 2021, I think it is important for ongoing funding to be noted in our 5-year projections. Additionally, I am exploring possible funding to support 3 other initiatives: one-year funding to implement a Children's Saving Account program in 2020, funds for a feasibility study of a Public Bank and ongoing support for Green Zone initiatives.
- 6) Today, a Council committee held a public hearing on our proposed new Municipal Identification Program ordinance. I have advocated for this for years to address the problems people have getting proper forms of identification due to their experience with housing instability, gender identity, age, student status or immigration status. This program will help people open bank accounts, be admitted to a hospital, obtain prescription drugs, register children for school, file a police report and have an identification with their preferred gender identity. Over 20 U.S. cities or counties, including Detroit and Milwaukee, have utilized their Municipal ID programs. I am hopeful that the ID will also be used as a Metro Transit card, bike sharing card and library card to make it a useful tool for all Minneapolis residents.
- 7) I was disappointed this month to learn that Met Council decided to end discussions about allowing a new district energy system in the University Avenue Innovation District to use the heat from waste water that they manage. Such a district energy system could help dramatically reduce the carbon emissions from a large new redevelopment planned for the blocks just east of the University's east bank campus. The system would tap into the heat in the sanitary sewer to heat those new buildings without fossil fuels. This is a promising idea that met with great success in Vancouver, Canada, and has drawn interest from the University of Minnesota, nearby property owners and has backing from Evergreen Energy, one of the more successful district energy providers in the state. You can learn more about the Vancouver project at <https://vancouver.ca/docs/planning/renewable-energy-neighbourhood-utility-factsheet.pdf>. Over the months ahead I will be working with my colleagues and other stakeholders to reopen these discussions.
- 8) Several 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.