

Second Ward November 2018 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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2018 General Election. 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 Davnie 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 Carpni 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/>.

2040 Comprehensive Plan Amendments. After the hearing and many amendments at the Planning Commission and the lengthy Public Hearing before the City Council on November 14, the City Council will meet on Monday the 26th to consider amendments to the Plan. I believe that as currently written this plan offers 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 believe it can be improved and I plan to bring several amendments forward, 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/wcmssp-215506.pdf>. I expect as many as 300 amendments to be presented by Council Members on the 26th prior to the December 7th Council meeting where additional amendments could also be considered before a final draft of the plan is likely to be approved by the Council. If a plan is approved by the Council and Mayor it will be forwarded to neighboring jurisdictions for review and comments and then, by December 31, to the Metropolitan Council for their review. The Met Council will have 120 days to review, require modifications to be made and/or approve the

plan. Once approved by the Met Council the work of implementing the plan will fall to the City Council. The Metropolitan Council stipulates that the city is to amend any official controls that conflict with the approved plan within 9 months. 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://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00770>. More general information is also available at <https://minneapolis2040.com/>.

2019 Proposed Budget. 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 4th Precinct. Third, I am convinced that we need an additional civilian investigator to investigate Police misconduct complaints in the Civil Rights Department. Most complainants are requesting civilian investigators and we do not have adequate staff to investigate them fully in a timely manner. 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. The Youth Coordinating Board has developed a highly successful program that has used in the downtown and North Minneapolis areas and I think it would be beneficial to bring it to Cedar Riverside and Seward in 2019. 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.

Police Shooting of Travis Jordan. I was deeply discouraged and saddened by the death of Travis Jordan who was shot and killed by Minneapolis police on Friday November 9, just days before the November 15th three-year-memorial of Jamar Clark's killing and less than 6 months from the June killing of Thurman Blevins. Mr. Jordan's death appears to be an unnecessary loss of life at the hands of City employees that could have been prevented if better policies and training were in place. It was especially disturbing to learn that it was the result of a 311 call from a friend of Mr. Jordan's who was concerned for his welfare and that it was clear that there was a mental health crisis occurring. There will be an opportunity for people concerned about this, and other police and public safety issues to address a Council Committee next week, Thursday November 29th at 1:30 when the committee meeting will open with a 30-minute time period for public comments. I will be listening carefully for new ideas and I will continue to push for improvements in policing and public safety policies that I have articulated in the past, including improving our protocols responding to emergencies and expanding our mental health co-responder program.

Police Reform. This most recent police killing reopens pain and distrust in our community in our police force. As I have said before, we require broad-based, systemic change. Priority reforms we should move forward on now include:

- Require thorough and ongoing training of police officers on implicit bias, procedural justice, relationship-based policing, crisis intervention, mediation, conflict resolution, youth development and de-escalation.
- Require current and prospective police officers to undergo implicit racial bias testing and develop a clear policy for considering an officer's level of racial bias in the hiring process, performance evaluations and decisions about whether an officer should be deployed to communities of color.
- Reform our Police Conduct Review system on a state and local level so that it is an all-civilian entity that receives, investigates and resolves all civilian complaints against police in a timely manner. Empower it to question officers and witnesses immediately after an incident where deadly force is used, access crime scenes, subpoena witnesses, and to make disciplinary and policy recommendations.
- Amend the Minneapolis City Charter to ensure that accountability for the police department is shared by the City Council to put the police chief on equal footing with other department heads and ensure that more elected officials in Minneapolis are engaged in and accountable for reform and fundamental department policies.
- Invest and engage in effective non-police, public health strategies like the Next Step emergency room program, outreach workers, the mental health co-responder program, and Group Violence Intervention strategies as well as a robust system of restorative justice and efforts to identify and provide resources for those residents at highest risk for violence.

Our work on police practices must be grounded in a critical understanding of race and racism in Minneapolis, and the present day consequences of our history.

Police Chief Reappointment. The Mayor and Executive Committee, with my support, have moved the reappointment of Medaria Arradondo as Chief of Police. There will be a Public Hearing on his reappointment at the Public Safety committee meeting at 1:30 on **November 29th** in room 317 of City Hall.

Police Body Worn Camera Video Release Policy. On **November 29th** the Public Safety Committee will receive a report on the City's policy and procedure for publicly releasing police body worn camera footage after police shootings. The presentation included input from the City Clerk's office as the releasing authority, the City Attorney's Office, and the Police Department.

County Jail Resolution. 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 services 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.

Grant to Improve Court Appearances. Thanks to the initiative of Deputy City Attorney, Mary Ellen Heng, the City has been awarded a MacArthur Foundation grant to start a pilot program to see if we can further reduce arrests for failure to appear for court hearings by providing defendants with rides to their hearings. More info is a <http://www.startribune.com/who-says-there-s-no-free-ride-grant-will-get-public-defender-clients-to-court/499213381/>

Municipal ID. On **November 26** at 1:30 pm a City Council committee will conduct 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. If approved, the 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.

Neighborhoods 2020 Community Meetings. The three Neighborhoods 2020 Work Group have drafted recommendations about the future of neighborhood organizations and will be sharing

them at five community meetings in December. Residents are invited to review recommendations, ask questions, make comments and share concerns. Meetings will be held Saturday, **December 1**, from 9:00 – 11:00am at Waite House at 2323 11th Ave S; Monday, **December 3**, from 6:00 – 8:00pm in CROC Room of the Opportunity Center at 740 E 17th St; Wednesday, **December 5**, from 1:00 – 3:00pm in North Market at 4414 Humboldt Ave; Thursday, **December 6**, from 1:00 – 2:30pm in the LERA Conference Room of Little Earth Residents Association at 2495 18th Ave South; and Friday, **December 7**, from 11:30 – 1:30pm in the Harrison Education Center Multipurpose Room at 501 Irving Ave N. For more details visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/2020>.

Americans with Disabilities Act Action Plan Report. The Council has authorized a one-year extension of our Americans with Disabilities Act Action Plan and directed Neighborhood & Community Relations staff to report back to the Public Health (PECE) Committee in October 2019 with an updated three-year plan. For more information see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01305>.

One Minneapolis Fund. The Council has approved One Minneapolis awards of \$15,000 - \$25,000 to 10 organizations serving cultural communities in Minneapolis to provide leadership development and broaden community engagement to prepare people to serve on City boards and neighborhood organizations and engage communities in specific targeted audiences that include Youth (ages 18-24), Renters, Low-income, Southeast Asian, Latino, American Indian and African American. Thirty-eight proposals were received that served all the targeted groups plus the LGBTQA+ and homeless youth communities. There was a total of \$182,000 in funding available this year but over \$800,000 was requested. The proposals were reviewed and scored by the One Minneapolis Fund Subcommittee and approved by the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission on October 23rd. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/3466>.

Navigation Center. Safety continues to be a priority concern at the homeless encampment near Franklin and Hiawatha Avenues. In November there was another death from an apparent drug overdose and a fire destroyed several tents and required fire department assistance to extinguish. I am hoping that the temporary Navigation Center will open in mid-December and that it will provide safe and warm shelter that people currently living at the encampment will choose to move to. A roster of people who plan to relocate to the temporary Navigation Center is being created. The center will accommodate up to 120 people and be located at 2109 Cedar Ave. Case management services will be provided on site and will include traditional Native healing activities. Staff will monitor the immediate neighborhood and respond promptly to any neighborhood concerns. For the Navigation Center, the Family Housing Fund has agreed to serve as fiscal agent and a partnership of the Red Lake Nation, Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID), Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, Hennepin County Shelter Collaborative and the City will help manage the funds. Financial donations will likely support the hiring and deployment of trusted community navigators and housing coordinators/advocates to assist with connecting encampment residents to supports and housing as well as supporting operation of the center and building capacity for longer term, culturally appropriate and low-

barrier housing options. For more information about the Family Housing Fund, visit fhfund.org or call 612-375-9644. Visit MUID's Franklin/Hiawatha encampment website for more information about donation/volunteer needs: franklinhiawathacamp.org.

Major Affordable Housing Investments. In November the Council approved significant housing investments in 10 projects that will create or preserve 764 units of affordable multifamily rental housing and leverage over \$188 million in additional private and public resources. We approved \$10.6 million in direct investment through our Affordable Housing Trust Fund program and \$1.6 million using 10-year Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program dollars for 2018. These are the annual allocations of the two primary ways we fund affordable housing as a City. One of the funded project is in Ward 2 where the Council approved using \$587,103 of our federal tax credit allocation for the Maya Commons project. This funding will allow them to move forward next year with construction of 50 units of affordable workforce housing with a wellness focus, including 8 units for people experiencing homelessness, in Southeast Como near Van Cleve Park. For a full list of projects and more details see items 11 and 12 at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/HPD/665>

Intentional Community Cluster-Housing. With my colleagues Jeremiah Ellison and Jeremy Schroeder, I am introducing an ordinance that will change the Zoning Code to allow new "intentional community cluster housing" in Minneapolis, like what has been proposed by the Envision collaborative between Hennepin Healthcare, the University of Minnesota and Street Voices of Change. The concept is to allow and regulate the construction of small, inexpensive clusters of tiny homes for people who have experienced homelessness – and a certain number of people who just want to "live small" and in that sort of intentional community. One exciting aspect of this concept is that it relies in part on health plan dollars to house homeless people who are high users of health care services (like the emergency room). This innovative concept could be one important potential pathway out of homelessness. You can read more here: <http://www.startribune.com/a-village-of-mini-houses-for-the-poor-and-homeless-proposed-in-minneapolis/499730811/>

Notice of Sales. The Council has passed the Advance Notice of Sale ordinance authored by Council Members Schroeder and Goodman. This ordinance offers protections to tenants of affordable rental buildings that are sold from one owner to another. Owners of properties with 5 or more units where at least 20% are affordable to households with incomes at or below 60% of the regions medium income (\$56,880 for a 4-person household) must give the City and tenants 60 days' notice prior to making the property available for sale. Additionally, after a sale tenants will have 90 days of protections where they will be eligible for relocation assistance of up to 3 months of rent if the new owner terminates or does not renew a lease without cause, increase rents or initiates re-screening. There would be 3 exceptions to these requirements: the building is already subject to federal, state or local rent or income restrictions that remain in effect after the sale; the sale or transfer is to a new owner who commits to participate in the City's 4d program; and, the sale or transfer is through a 1031 exchange. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00159>. I am very supportive of this ordinance. I am also very supportive of going further, by adopting an Opportunity to Purchase and Right of First

Refusal ordinance in Minneapolis. These kinds of ordinances, which have been adopted in other cities in the US, ensure that tenants and/or the City can purchase existing affordable housing when it is proposed to be sold, and preserve it as affordable in the long term. These policies are also critical to increasing cooperatives and other forms of homeownership in multifamily buildings.

Inclusionary Housing. The Planning Commission has recommended adding a new Inclusionary Housing section to our Zoning Code. This will be forward to the Council's Zoning and Planning committee and, if passed, will establish an interim policy and amendments for the short term. Later this week I expect the Council to also direct staff to return next year for a more comprehensive policy for 2019. The inclusionary housing zoning code text amendment is intended to encourage mixed-income housing in what would otherwise be market-rate or mixed-use developments. The amendments will apply to rental development projects where property is rezoned to allow for 60% or more increase in the number of units that would otherwise be allowed. For more information see the staff report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-215207.pdf>.

Unified Housing Policy. On November 28 the Housing Committee will get a report on the Inclusionary Housing Framework and consider amendments to the City's Unified Housing Policy that would add anti-displacement, tenant protection and homeownership support sections as well as a section articulating the affordable housing requirements related to the Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance that will be at the Zoning Committee on Thursday. The proposed updates to the Unified Housing Policy state that residential rental projects will either have at least 10% of the units affordable to and occupied by households with an income at or below 60% of the Area Medium Income and will not be eligible for City financial assistance; or will have at least 20% of the units affordable to and occupied by households with an income at or below 50% of the AMI. Projects that meet this second 20% standard are eligible to apply for City financial assistance. At the meeting I also expect the committee to approve a staff direction that will direct staff to develop a comprehensive inclusionary housing policy and program changes for adoption in 2019 as well as a recommend tax increment financing policy and program to support the affordable housing requirements of the Interim Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance.

Advisory Committee on Housing. I expect the City Council to approve appointees to our new Housing Advisory Committee in early December. We had a long list of outstanding applicants and I am very hopeful that the group coming forward for recommendation will provide excellent input and advice to help us address the serious housing concerns facing our city. My thanks go to everyone who applied.

Lot Combinations. Council Member Schroeder has introduced ordinance amendments that would limit lot combinations in lower density zoning districts.

Clean energy Partnership Work Plan Approved. In November, the Clean Energy Partnership approved its 2019-2021 work plan. The plan (at <https://mplscleanenergypartnership.org/wp->

[content/uploads/2018/11/CEP-2019-2021-Work-Plan-Final-Draft.pdf](#)) outlines 10 activities to reduce Green House Gas emissions: reducing natural gas use, reducing energy use for commercial users, pursuing energy efficiency at city facilities, field testing carbon capture technologies, supporting residential energy disclosure, installing electric vehicle infrastructure, achieving 100% renewable electricity for the city government uses, provide solar options for low income residents, improves access to clean energy jobs and implement inclusive financing for energy improvements. I am hopeful that this focused, yet ambitious plan will ring significant and measurable results in the years to come.

Energy Disclosure Ordinance. I am working on a new residential energy disclosure ordinance that I expect to be formally introduced at the Council Meeting on December 7th. Council Member Schroeder and I have been working on this for several weeks and believe that we have a framework that will help current and potential renters, as well as prospective home buyers, get accurate information about the energy use at the buildings where they live, or hope to live. It would amend Title 3, Chapter 47 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Air Pollution and Environmental Protection: Energy and Air Pollution as well as Title 12, Chapter 248 that relates to Housing: Truth in Sale of Housing. In both sections we will be adding provisions relating to residential energy disclosure.

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/buildings-energy/index.htm>

Minneapolis Energy Challenge. Minneapolis' [Building Energy Challenge](#) saw 75 percent of participating large buildings meeting or surpassing the City emission reduction goals by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 15 percent. In November, we ended the four-year challenge by awarding 10 buildings. Two of the 10 buildings switched to 100 percent renewable and clean electricity, nine of the buildings improved their heating and cooling systems and controls, and nine installed energy-efficient lighting. The 10 high-performing large commercial buildings recognized for cutting their climate change pollution are Butler Square, Calhoun Square, DeLaSalle High School, the Forensic Sciences Building, the Hennepin County Government Center, the Hennepin County Hospital Parking Ramp, Minneapolis City Hall, the Minneapolis Convention Center, the Royalston Maintenance Facility, and the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Minneapolis campus. This kind of work is critical to addressing our climate crisis because the commercial-industrial sector contributed almost half of the total citywide greenhouse gas emissions in 2016 with building energy use as the main source.

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Update. In November the Council approved amendments to the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) enabling resolution to include more community member representation. On November 26, I expect the Public Health (PECE) Committee to recommend the appointments of several new members under the revamped resolution. This will include the reappointment of Erin Niehoff from Ward 2 who has provided outstanding leadership on the Commission for the past years. My sincere thanks go to outgoing members Andrew Murray, Darrell Gerber, Ellen Kennedy, James Nash, Jenna Grove, Jennifer Kruse, Jon Stenseth, Michelle Stockness, Mohamed Yakub, Tony Hainault, Bobbie Erichsen, and Ricardo McCurley for their dedication and service. At its the November meeting, CEAC heard from community members as well as City staff about the development

project at Upper Harbor Terminal. As the City of Minneapolis continues to tackle environmental problems, including through its work as part of Bloomberg's American Cities Climate Challenge, CEAC is working to ensure that the City Council and Mayor hear community perspectives. If you're interested in learning more, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/teams/ceac-meetings> or attend one of CEAC's monthly meetings. Contact sustainability@minneapolismn.gov for details.

Bloomberg Climate Challenge. I was delighted to learn that Minneapolis was awarded a Climate Challenge grant, along with St. Paul other cities from across the country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Minneapolis will receive \$2.5 million over two years from Bloomberg Philanthropies to implement climate change strategies.

Invasive Tree Ordinance. I have introduced ordinance amendments that, if passed, will add provisions related to the removal of trees and allow people have the costs of the removal of trees infested with an invasive species placed on their property tax bill.

Tree Planting Services. The Council has approved contracting with Tree Trust again this year for \$100,000, for tree planting services under the city Trees Program with an option to extend the contract by up to three years and up to \$500,000.

Violence Prevention. On November 26th the Public Health (PECE) Committee will conduct a hearing on a new ordinance that, if passed, will create a new Office of Violence Prevention in the Health Department. I am excited to support this initiative of Council Member Cunningham's that is intended to provide strategic direction and oversight for the City's efforts to reduce violence and will allow the department to play an effective leadership role coordinating the variety of violence prevention activities happening throughout city government.

Violence Prevention Executive Steering Committee. The new advisory group created by the Council to help provide expertise and oversee the City's violence prevention strategic plan is seeking applicants. For more information and to apply contact Sasha.Cotton@minneapolismn.gov and visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/WCMSP-213886>

Armistice Day. I was glad to author a resolution commemorating the Armistice Day Centennial and participate in a bell ringing at City hall and an event on the Partners for Peace Armistice Day gathering at Britt's Pub on November 11th. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01329>

Noah Schuchman. Noah Schuchman has resigned his position as Director of Regulatory Services. Noah has been working for the City since I was first elected in 2005 and I have appreciated working with him a great deal. So I was happy to sign on to an honorary resolution the Council passed to thank him for his service and dedication to the City that you can find at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/1767/Noah%20Schuchman%20Honorary%20R>

[esolution.pdf](#). I am sorry to see him go but wish him the best in his new positions as Duluth's new Chief Administrative Officer.

Home Grown Minneapolis Food Council. In December the Council will likely approve 4 new appointees to our Minneapolis Home Grown Food Council. I am delighted to see that one of them is Second Ward resident Teresa Opheim. Teresa has worked for the Iowa Environmental Council, the Environmental Law Institute, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. She led the Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group before serving as the executive director of Practical Farmers of Iowa from 2006 to 2016, and currently works at Renewing the Countryside. She also edited the book, The Future of Family Farms: Practical Farmers' Legacy Letters Project.

Staple Food Ordinance. 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. The public hearing on the amendments will be held on November 26 at 1:30 in room 317 or City Hall. To learn more visit <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01217>.

“State of Data” Report. This month the City Council received a report that outlines the current way data is managed by the City and a plan on how to improve transparency, accountability and accessibility. The report summarizes data management, use and how accessible and understandable that data is. The 2018 State of Data Report is available at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/1804/2018%20Open%20Data%20Portal.pdf>.

U.S. Census Jobs. The U.S. Census Bureau is currently hiring. If you or someone you know is looking for a job and wants to make a positive impact on Minneapolis, please encourage them to apply at the Census Bureau's online job portal: <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. An accurate count of the state's population is crucial for all of us in Minneapolis. U.S. census information determines the political and financial resources available to our communities.

Greenline Southwest Light Rail Extension. This month the Federal Transit Administration cleared the way for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) line to begin construction this winter. They notified the Metropolitan Council that they would pay \$929 million of the project's roughly \$2 billion cost. Most of the construction work is anticipated to begin in 2019 and go through 2022. Passenger service is expected to start in 2023. This will be an extension of the Greenline and will connect Ward 2 residents from downtown to St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie. Visit <https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Projects/Current-Projects/Southwest-LRT.aspx> for more information.

Sewer Heat Recovery System. 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.

U of M Conservation Improvement Program. I was very happy to see that The University of Minnesota withdrew its applications with the state to stop from paying into the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) for natural gas, which helps pay for energy efficiency programs and rebates to all Minnesota gas customers. I am grateful that they reevaluated this decision based on community feedback.

Northbay Project at 934 15th and 938 15th Ave SE. The City Planning Commission has recommended approval of rezoning these two lots on 15th Ave SE, across from Van Cleve Park, from R2B Two-Family to the R4 Multiple-Family to allow for construction of a two 6-unit apartments. I expect to support this when it comes to the Council for approval and feel that, even as the apartments are clearly oriented to student renters, the project is consistent with the small area plan and is an improvement over what is there now. The Planning Commission also approved conditional use permits to allow a cluster development, and increase the maximum height from 2.5 stories to 3 stories and a variance to decrease the minimum parking requirement from 24 spaces to 17 spaces.

Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan Update. Four open houses are scheduled throughout the day on November 30 with a final advisory committee set for December 10 to help the Park Board finalize plans for the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan, a project that will create a new long-term plan for all riverfront parkland in Minneapolis between Bridge 9 (Intown Greenway bridge) and Minnehaha Regional Park. Open houses with information on proposed improvements will be held Friday, November 30 from 8:30-10am at the MPRB Headquarters in the Cedar Conference Room; from 12-1:30pm at the University of Minnesota in the Ralph Rapson Hall Lobby; from 3-4 pm in the Coyle Community Center Community Room; and from 5-6:30 pm in the Longfellow Recreation Center Craft Room. The final Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 5:30-8:30 pm at Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board headquarters, 2117 West River Road. An updated survey showing revised planning concepts for focal areas within Gorge Regional Park is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Gorge_intro_survey. To learn more about this project visit https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/mississippi_gorge_regional_park_master_plan/.

East Side Park Design Concepts. The park concepts for the East of the River Park Master Plan project (www.minneapolisparcs.org/eastoftheriver) are now available for review. After a 45-day comment period closes, the design team will again consider comments from all

stakeholders. Then, over the winter, the final plan will be sent to the Board of Commissioners for a final public hearing and vote on its final approval. The final park design concepts will be used to make improvements funded by the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan, which dedicates \$11 million annually over 20 years (2017-2036) to revitalize Minneapolis neighborhood parks.

Jobs with the City. The City has several job openings among and more than 900 different job types. To learn more and view current openings see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs>

Openings on Boards and Commissions. Several board and commission positions are open for City Council and Mayor appointments this spring. People can apply and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. Potential applicants can find more information at 612-673-2216 or OpenAppointments@minneapolismn.gov.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open Community “Office Hours” in the ward every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

First Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St;
Second Mondays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;
Third Mondays at T-Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE; and
Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.

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