

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Southeast Como Neighborhood December 4, 2018

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>
www.facebook.com/camgordonward2
<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>

*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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673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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**Cam's Next Como Office Hours:
Monday, December 10, 9:30-11:00am
Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE**

- 1) 2018 Elections
- 2) Minneapolis 2040
- 3) Compe Plan Next Steps
- 4) 2019 Budget
- 5) Police Cheifl Reappointment
- 6) Major Affordable Housing Investments
- 7) Northbay Project at 934 15th and 938 15th Ave SE
- 8) East Side Park Design Concepts
- 9) 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 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 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) After making over amendments to it, the Council is likely to approve a comprehensive plan update this Friday. I believe that as amended the 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. So far most of the amendments I offered have been approved including 6 land use/ built form map amendments, 4 new policies and 24 of the 25 smaller amendments to existing policies. My approved amendments included two additional policies that might be of particular interest to Ward 2 neighborhood organizations. Four of my more significant amendments added policies to the plan. One called for an Innovation District Police. Another for freeway mitigation. Another was to add an entirely new policy on the University District, calling it out in a similar way to the way that downtown is called out. Another of my amendments reiterates the City's ongoing support for geographically based neighborhood organizations. I also brought forward several amendments that will increase renewable energy, energy efficiency, and affordable housing. You can find more information about all of the amendments to the plan that were proposed and that passed here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00770>.

- 3) 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>.
- 4) The Council is now 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. 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 see the full calendar at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-calendar> and make comments online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>. The final Public Hearing before the Council on December 5 at 6:05 pm. All the budget meetings and hearings will take place in the City Council Chambers, room 317, in City Hall, 350 So 5th Street.
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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>
- 7) The City Planning Commission and Zongin and Planning Committee have 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.