

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 11-15-18

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Monday, November 22, 9:30-11:00am
East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St**

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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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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) 2018 Midterm Election
- 2) 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- 3) 2019 Budget Amendments
- 4) 4d Affordable Housing Preservation
- 5) Hennepin County Jail Resolution
- 6) Conduct on Premise Ordinance Passes
- 7) Intentional Community Cluster Housing Ordinance
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Approximately 207,114 ballots were cast in Minneapolis for this year's election and turnout was around 75 percent of all registered voters. I extend my thanks to everyone who ran for office, campaigned, voted and participated in any way in this year's elections. That includes our City's 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, Angela Conley who will be as our new County Commissioner for District 4, Siad Ali and Jenny Areneson who were reelected 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 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 all the elections results here <https://electionresults.sos.state.mn.us/>.
- 2) The Council has held a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan. I believe that it offers a promising path forward to help us plan prepare thoughtfully for the upcoming population growth while preserving what is best about our communities, reducing racial and economic disparities, and addressing climate change. To review the plan and get more information visit <https://minneapolis2040.com/> and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-215106.pdf> to see the Planning Commission's recommended amendments. I expect the Council to make numerous amendments to the plan on November 26th before the Council approves it on December 7th. I am working on a number of different amendments to the plan, including policy amendments on establishing Innovation Districts, repairing damages of the Interstate Highway System, supporting the work of locally designated Neighborhood Organizations and recognizing the uniqueness of the University Area similar to how downtown gets special designation in the plan. I also may propose smaller changes to strategies within in other policy areas related to increasing affordable housing, energy and natural green space.
- 3) The Conduct on Licensed Premises Ordinance amendments I worked on with Council Members Cunningham and Ellison were approved by the Council on November 2nd. Our goal is to provide clarity and consistency to both landlords and tenants, and to provide support and oversight to prevent unnecessary evictions and make sure rental properties are well managed.

- 4) I am working on 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 that this year proves that the health inspectors are needed and that they should be funding in an ongoing way. Second, I want to expand funding for co-responders in the Police Budget so that teams can be deployed in more precincts, including the 4th. Third, I am convinced that we need an additional civilian investigator in 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. 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 in set to end in 2021 I think it is important for ongoing funding to be noted in our 5-year projections and plan to make that amendment. Additionally, I am exploring possible funding to support 3 other initiatives: implementation of Children's Saving Account, a feasible study of a Public Bank and ongoing support for Green Zone initiatives.
- 5) The Council has unanimously supported a resolution I have authored that will expand our 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program. The new program will build on the success of the City's 4d pilot program that has helped preserve 207 units of affordable housing. Under the program, qualified building owners who agreed to keep a minimum of 20% of units per building affordable to households making 60% of Area Median Income (AMI), for ten years, received 40% property tax reduction on qualifying units (Low Income Rental Classification, also known as "4d property tax classification"). In the new program the minimum building size has been lowered from 10 to 2 units and the new 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program has the potential to preserve affordability of 700-1,500 units in 2019.
- 6) 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. This is in response to stories we have been hearing for years, and more often in recent months, about family members and friends who are arrested – sometimes for relatively minor offenses like driving without a license – and get taken to the County Jail and are not heard from again, as well as a letter that the Sheriff sent the Mayor and Council last year describing his practices, and, finally, a report that we got from staff last week. All of those things make it clear to me the current Sheriff has procedures in place that facilitate people in Minneapolis being deported by ICE and that not all of those procedures are required by law. Sadly, it also appears that this has led to significantly more deportation activity at the Hennepin County Jail than the Ramsey County Jail. I view this as an important first step in protecting our residents and helping to make sure that our "separation ordinance" has real meaning by changing the pro-deportation practices at the jail. 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 would like see incorporated into the contract. The City had not actually established before today, in any formal way, what changes we are seeking. We can only make progress towards our goals by identifying what those goals are. Now we have. I look forward to City staff renegotiating the contract with the new Sheriff, Dave Hutch.
- 7) 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 build 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). I think this is a great, innovative concept, and 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/>
- 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.