

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Seward, January 23, 2018

**Cam's Next Office Hours:**  
**Monday, February 4, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Cafe 3311 E 25th St**

**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](mailto:cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov)

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>  
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>  
[www.facebook.com/camgordonward2](https://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.***

If you need this material in an  
alternative format, please contact  
[NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-  
673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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.

- 1) 2019 Budget
- 2) Neighborhood Funding Programs
- 3) Comprehensive Plan
- 4) Second Ward Transportation Plan Meeting
- 5) Neighborhoods 2020
- 6) Community Connections Conference
- 7) Residential Energy Disclosure
- 8) LED Street Lights
- 9) Police Charter Amendment
- 10) Snow Emergency Info
- 11) Semi-Truck Parking
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City approved a 2019 budget of \$1.55 billion dollars. It includes an unprecedented affordable housing investment of more than \$50 million (\$40 million in local sources) to create more affordable housing, preserve existing affordable housing, support tenants' rights and promote affordable homeownership. The Council also made a series of amendments that reduced the proposed increase in the Police Department's budget by nearly \$1 million to fund other community safety strategies. You can find more at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00745>.
- 2) As part of the budget process, I successfully added provisions in the General Fund Five-Year Financial Direction to include between \$3.5 and 4 million a year for Neighborhood Funding Programs and \$3 million a year for Neighborhood and Community Relations Engagement Services beginning in 2021 when the current special tax district that funds those efforts will no longer be in existence. These will still need to be approved as part of the regular budget process in those years.
- 3) The 2040 Comprehensive Plan was approved with all but one of the amendments I offered being incorporated into the plan. This includes 6 land use/built form map amendments, 4 new policies and 24 of the 25 smaller amendments to existing policies. Four of my more significant amendments added new policies to the plan. One creates an Innovation District policy, one a Freeway Remediation Policy, another added a policy on the University District, and the fourth reiterates the City's ongoing support for Place-Based Neighborhood Engagement. I also brought forward several amendments that will increase renewable energy, energy efficiency, and affordable housing. I believe that the amended plan offers a promising path forward to help us prepare thoughtfully for population growth while preserving what is best about our communities, reducing racial and economic disparities, and addressing climate change. A searchable and printable version of the City Council approved plan can also be found at [https://minneapolis2040.com/media/1427/pdf\\_minneapolis2040\\_12\\_7\\_2018.pdf](https://minneapolis2040.com/media/1427/pdf_minneapolis2040_12_7_2018.pdf).
- 4) Please join me and other Ward 2 neighbors to share your transportation hopes and concerns on **March 6** from 7-9pm at Matthews park for a **Ward 2 Community Conversation on Improving Transportation in Minneapolis**. This year the City will be updating our ten-year Transportation Plan to implement the transportation vision outlined in Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan, our Complete Streets Policy and our Vision Zero initiative. To learn more about the plan as well as the recently released Vision Zero Crash Study and Visit <https://go.minneapolismn.gov> to learn more about the plan goals, topics and how to get involved and visit <https://www.visionzerompls.com/> for more information on the Vision Zero.

- 5) In December, task force recommendations about the future of city-recognized neighborhood organizations were shared and a staff report based on these were released for public comment. Staff will present final recommendations to the Council in April. It will be very important for everyone who cares about neighborhood organizations and community engagement to carefully review and provide feedback on these recommendations. For more details visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/2020>.
- 6) This year's Community Connections Conference will be on **Saturday, February 2** in the Minneapolis Convention Center, lower level, in Hall A. The conference brings together neighborhoods, communities, residents and local government in an inclusive, creative space to make connections and build capacity during a day of interactive exhibits, workshops, round tables and an opening panel. For more information see <http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>
- 7) The new residential energy disclosure ordinance is expected to get a Public Hearing to be set for **February 4**. It offers 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 add provisions to ordinances relating to residential energy disclosure, in three ways. First, for single family homes and duplexes it will be requiring a simple energy report to be added to the existing Truth in Sale of Housing program. That report will indicate the air sealing needs of a house, whether it has wall and attic insulation, and the efficiency of heating appliances. The second is a time-of-rent energy disclosure requirement for rental property owners of buildings below 50,000 square feet (or 50 units). This will use a new data tool that we are working with Xcel and CenterPoint through the Clean Energy Partnership to develop. And third, rental property owners of buildings over 50,000 square feet will be required to benchmark their buildings, just as commercial buildings of that size have been required to do for years. You can read more about this initiative here: <http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/sustainability/buildings-energy/index.htm>
- 8) Xcel Energy is upgrading all 24,000 of its streetlights in Minneapolis to use light-emitting diode lamps (LEDs). Crews will be installing the lights throughout the city on the Xcel Energy-owned wooden poles, mainly along alleys and side streets. LED fixtures use about half the electricity of the existing lights and have a longer life, which means less maintenance, lower costs and fewer replacements. The new lights are a softer, warmer 3000 Kelvin as recommended by the American Medical Association for outdoor LED lights to prevent harsh glare and harmful human and environmental effects. Xcel will pay all costs associated with the retrofits and there are no costs to Minneapolis for the streetlight replacements. For more information or if you have concerns about the new lighting call Xcel Energy's Customer Care at 1-800-895-4999.
- 9) I was disappointed to see that the Charter Commission vote to reject the Police Charter Amendment proposal that the Council forwarded to them this summer. I disagree with their conclusions and remain convinced that we should amend the charter provision that, unlike any other department, puts of authority of the police department almost solely in the mayor's hands. The Charter says, "*The Mayor has complete power over the establishment, maintenance, and command of the police department.*" For all the other departments, the Council and Mayor work together to give staff direction, set policies and approve plans through our open and transparent public process. But with the police department, the establishment and alteration of the police policies does not require any public review or discussion. This means that Minneapolis Police policies do not get the level of expert and community scrutiny that they, and the public, deserve and that would help create better policy and more community and policy-maker confidence. Too often Police Department policy is set and changed by the Chief alone without any public notification or process.
- 10) I encourage everyone to sign up for Snow Emergency alerts to stay informed and help prevent being ticketed and towed. Sign up for Email alerts at [https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MPLS\\_26](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic_id=MPLS_26) and phone call alerts on your mobile phone at [http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/snow/snow\\_phone-alert](http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/snow/snow_phone-alert), on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisSnowEmergency> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/minneapolisnow/>. When in doubt call the snow emergency news hotline at 612-348-SNOW (7669). TTY: 612-673-2157.
- 11) Public Works staff have come up with a proposal to address semi-truck parking in south Seward. My office will be working with affected business and property owners in the area to organize a meeting for staff to present this proposal in February, and I look forward to hearing stakeholders' feedback.
- 12) For several years Ward 2 has been represented on the City's Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC) by two appointees, Alexander Tsatsoulis and Jeremy Bergerson, who have now decided to step off the board. I thank them for their service and am now seeking new volunteers to take their places. The group reviews budget requests and makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council for the City's five-year capital investment plan. Go to <http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/boards/CLIC> for more general information about CLIC and to <http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/boards/how-to-apply>, to apply.