

## Second Ward September 2019 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

[www.facebook.com/camgordonward2](http://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2)

**2020 Budget & Tax Levy.** Following a budget address that included an organized and vocal group of protestors concerned about policing in Minneapolis, the Mayor released his proposed 2020 Recommended Budget in August. You can find it at [www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/2020-budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/2020-budget). The Mayor's proposed property tax levy increase for 2019 is 6.95%. Because the overall tax base (or the citywide assessed property) is increasing by about 7%, the overall tax rate is expected to stay the same in 2020. With this levy, if your property value did not go up this year your property taxes due will be almost unchanged according to finance staff estimates. For a property owner whose home value increased there will be a property tax increase. For example, if the value went up by 6.8%, the annual increase will be 7.8%.

**Budget Calendar.** The Board of Estimate & Taxation met on September 11 for a hearing on the levy and will meet again on September 25 at 5:05pm to approve the maximum levy for next year. The department budget presentations are set as follows: September 12 –Public Safety, September 23 –Regulatory Services and Community Planning and Economic Development, September 26 –City Coordinator, City Assessor, Public Works, October 24 –Health, Youth Coordinating Board, Council/Clerk/Elections, Coordinator Departments and October 28 – Convention Center, MPRB, Emergency Management, Civil Rights, Mayor. There will be a Public Hearing on the Mayor's Recommendation on **November 7** at 9:30am to noon, the Truth in Taxation Hearing on **December 4** at 6:05pm, Budget Markup when Council amendments are considered on December 6, 10am –3pm with a Final Public Hearing, possible amendments and final Budget Adoption on **December 11** at 6:05pm. Budget presentations can be found at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01004>

**Budget Highlights.** I was glad that the Mayor included a plan for funding neighborhoods and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations in his budget. I also appreciated seeing a \$31 million investment in affordable, \$4 million to support expanding early voting in the 2020 elections and an additional \$260,000 to help address the climate crisis. Additionally, I find it easy to support the proposed funding for a civilian sexual assault victim advocate position, making the \$300,000 co-responder funding from last year an ongoing expense and permanent program and to invest close to \$1 million to expand several other non-police violence prevention programs. This includes \$150,000 to expand the Group Violence Intervention program to the southside and \$143,000 to support outreach to people experiencing homelessness and opioid use disorder as well as \$405,000 to address the opioid crisis we are facing.

**Police Department Budget Increases.** The Mayor has proposed increasing the Police Department Budget by \$8.5 million (or 4.6%) and adding 14 officers. That would include 3 officers to form a new traffic division; 3 new investigators assigned to domestic abuse and sexual assault cases and 8 “neighborhood outreach” officers who would be assigned to specific areas of the City: 2 for downtown, 1 for Cedar Riverside, 1 Chicago/Franklin, 2 for East Lake Street, and 2 for the Northside. The budget also includes a 5-year plan to continue increasing the police budget each year totaling an additional 2.4 million increase by 2025.

**Adult Entertainment Regulation Ordinance.** Following a lengthy public hearing, the Council unanimously approved the Adult Entertainment ordinance that I coauthored with Council Member Palmisano. Its focus is on protecting those who work in these establishments who too often face exploitation, health risks and abuse at the workplace. Our guiding premise was that the entertainers in these establishments are engaged in legal work, and deserve workplaces that protect their safety and dignity, and allow them to make a living without exploitation, discrimination or abuse.

**Racial Equity Plan Priorities.** The Council has approved 3 policy priority goals for our Racial Equity Action Plan as follows. Housing: Reduce involuntary displacement in rental housing for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. Economic Development: Increase the number of Minneapolis-based businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); and increase businesses with BIPOC ownership that are still in business after 5 years. Public Safety: Increase the number of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color ages 10 to 24 years living in higher violence areas of Minneapolis who participate in high quality youth development programs. To see more details, visit <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/4694>

**400 Years of Resistance.** The City Council and Mayor formally recognized August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as the “400th Year Commemoration of Resistance and Liberation of African Americans” in the City of Minneapolis and the week of August 19-24 as the Week of Resilience because in August of 1619 a ship with 20 captives landed in Virginia and marked the beginning of slavery in what is now the United States of America. In the resolution approved by the City Council “the City commits to deepening its work to institute policies and practices that will repair the harm experienced by people of African ascent over the last 400 years as a result of the legacy of slavery and racism.” You can learn more at <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/aug/15/400-years-since-slavery-timeline>.

**Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan.** That Metropolitan Council is scheduled to consider the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan for approval on September 25. It will be evaluating the City plan for consistency with its own regional Thrive MSP 2040 plan. After approval by the Metropolitan Council, the City Council is expected to take final action on the plan on October 11, following a presentation from staff at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 10. The policies will likely have an effective date of November 16 and in future months and years I expect to see amendments to the zoning code, maps and other documents and regulations to implement the policies of the new Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

**Triplexes.** The first of the changes to be made as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan implementation will likely be an ordinance amendment that will allow up to 3 units in any residential building provided it meets the same set of requirements for setbacks, scale, height and pervious services as required of a single-family home under current rules. The number of units, (1, 2 or 3) in a building will likely have no bearing on requirements or limits to size, yards or position on the lot. I expect the 3-unit text amendment to come up for Council approval on November 8, with the Public Hearing most likely being held at the Planning Commission on **October 7<sup>th</sup>**. To learn more about this please see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/WCMSP-220319>

**Intentional Community Cluster Developments.** A presentation related to the ordinance amendments I am proposing to allow the establishment of Intention Community Cluster Developments was made to the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole in August. The staff report for the presentation can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmSP-220285.pdf>. I expect to have draft language ready for Planning Commission review later this month and am aiming to have the Public Hearing at the Planning Commission on **October 21<sup>st</sup>** with full Council approval on November 22.

**Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance.** I am co-hosting a Council Study Session with my colleagues Steve Fletcher, Jeremy Schroeder and Jeremiah Ellison, on Friday, **September 20** from 10:00am to noon in City Hall, Room 319 about the Opportunity to Purchase ordinance we're working on together. We're bringing in experts from Washington, DC, where they have had a similar law for years: Georgetown Law Professor Michael Diamond and Dominic Moulden, Resource Organizer with One DC, as well as city staff from the DC municipal government. In Washington DC, when a rental property owner wants to sell a building, the people who live in that building have the first opportunity to buy that building. This right has helped stabilize existing affordable housing, reduce displacement, and increase ownership and democratic control of housing in DC. I'm looking forward to hearing from experts from a city where this policy intervention has been used for years to give residents greater control over thousands of housing units. I hope that we can pass a Minneapolis version of this ordinance later this year.

**Public Housing Director Search.** I have agreed to serve on a search committee to offer advice on a new Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) Director. This committee is being established by the new Chair of the Housing Authority Board, Issa Sharmarke, who will also serve as chair of the search Committee. Other members of that committee include Tamir Mohamud, James Rosenbaum, Andrea Brennen, and the Mayor or a representative from his staff. The Housing Authority is hiring the executive search firm of Cohen Taylor to help recruit candidates. The recommendation for the director will be made by from the MPHA Board and will need to be approved by the City Council.

**Renter Protections Ordinance.** Following the public hearing on August 28th and the approval of three amendments, the Council's Housing Committee is recommending approval of a Rental Protection ordinance. The ordinance includes a limit on the amount of money that a renter can

be required to give to a landlord before getting housing (through things like security deposits and application fees) and clear rules on screening criteria that a landlord can and cannot use to refuse to rent to someone. I expect this to be approved at the Council meeting on September 13 where additional amendments may also be proposed. For the latest draft and more information visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-217816>.

**Single Room Occupancy/Shared Housing Pilot.** The Council has approved a new Single Room Occupancy (SRO)/Shared Housing Pilot within the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help pay for new affordable housing for people and families with very low incomes who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. This is consistent with Minneapolis 2040 *Policy 35: Innovative Housing Types*, which specifically prioritizes support for innovative, energy efficient, and creative housing options, such as multi-generational housing that supports large family structures, single room occupancy, shared housing, co-housing, and cooperative-housing. It will use a total of \$500,000 of federal Community Development Block grant funds to support projects that utilize SRO/shared housing models to the extent allowable through current zoning options, as a cost-effective way to provide deep affordability to the most vulnerable populations

**Short-term Rental Housing Policy.** The Council has directed staff to recommend a limit on the number or percentage of units allowed to be operated as short-term rentals in projects that receive City financial assistance or are developed on land sold by the City. I expect recommended changes to the Unified Housing Policy to come back to the Council for consideration in December.

**Short-term Rentals Ordinance.** The Council has also voted to take up amendments, authored by Council Member Fletcher, to more generally amend other provisions related to short term rentals.

**Latino Heritage Month.** The City is honoring Latino Heritage Month from **September 15 to October 15** with a series of events that will help us reaffirm our commitment to be an inclusive and welcoming city for all residents and spotlight the many contributions Latinos have made to Minneapolis. September 15 marks the anniversary of independence for several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its independence on the 16th and Chile the 18th. The Latino population in Minneapolis has grown significantly in recent decades with more than 44,000 Latino residents in the city today, representing 10.5% of the city's population. For more information about upcoming events and more visit [minneapolismn.gov/latinompls](http://minneapolismn.gov/latinompls).

**Final Phase of Neighborhoods 2020.** The City has selected the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) as the contractor to help with the final phase of Neighborhoods 2020 where program guidelines and goals will be developed. CURA has experience working with many neighborhood organizations to create strategic initiatives, planning and board development and may be reaching out to community members and neighborhood organizations in the coming weeks. On **September 16**, CURA will join with

Neighborhood and Community Relations staff to update the Council's Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement Committee (PECE) on a revised timeline and scope of work. You can find more about the work CURA will be doing for us at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-219487.pdf>.

**Census Workers.** U.S. Census Bureau field workers will start in September and October knocking doors to make sure the Census Bureau's address list is accurate ahead of the 2020 census that will occur April 1 next year. You can see a video produced by the Census Bureau to explain this door-to-door work here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOSl4sc3Ts4&feature=youtu.be>. Census workers participating in address canvassing will only ask for information about addresses – not people. The U.S. Census Bureau recommends verifying the field workers are legitimate census field workers and not employees of any other government agency. Census field workers must present an ID badge that includes a photograph of the field representative, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. Census workers may be carrying a Census Bureau phone or laptop as well as a bag with a Census Bureau logo. If you have questions, you can call 800-923-8282 or 312-579-1500 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. Learn more at <https://2020census.gov>.

**Opioid Crisis Response.** The Council, with my strong support, has approved agreements and accepted grants that will help us address opioid and methamphetamine abuse in Minneapolis. To do this the City will host to 2 Minnesota Opioid Response Corp members (as part of the AmeriCorps program) and will be accepting a grant of \$200,000 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials to assist us in our opioid response program. For resources and more information on how we are working to address this crisis see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/toolkit/opioidresources>.

**Wage Theft.** The Council has approved an ordinance amendment that prevents wage theft, adds overtime and break requirements, and restricts City contracts from being awarded to companies with outstanding wage obligations. The City ordinance works well with Minnesota Wage Theft Law to help to protect both employers and employees. Find more information and to register a complaint see <http://minimumwage.minneapolismn.gov/wagetheft.html>

**Freelance Worker Protection Ordinance.** The Council has voted to formally take up ordinance amendments that would establish freelance worker protections in Minneapolis. Authors, Fletcher, Palmisano and Cunningham will be drafting formal language in the weeks ahead.

**Tobacco Shop Regulations.** The Council, with my support, has approved a new spacing requirement of 2,000 feet between adult-only tobacco shops in Minneapolis. This is the same spacing requirement that has been in place for decades for liquor stores. The Council also voted to study limiting the number of overall tobacco licenses we issue.

**Commercial Drive-Through Facilities.** The City Council has approved prohibiting new commercial drive-through facilities from opening anywhere in the City. Existing drive-throughs are unaffected by the new law and can keep operating.

**2020 License Fee Increase.** The Council has approved increasing fees for all licenses in 2020 (including Business Licensing, Food / Lodging / Pools, Pollution Control Annual Registration, and Animal Control) by 2% (rounded to the nearest \$5 increment) except for fees to Taxi providers and fees charged for charitable purposes. We also approved adding a new category entitled “Food Cart Vendor, Sidewalk - Multiple” with a 2020 Fee of \$465.

**Micro Wholesaler Food License.** On **September 16** at 1:30pm there will be a public hearing on an ordinance amendment that I support that would create a micro wholesaler food license endorsement. The ordinance, authored by Council Member Fletcher, would establish a legal way for small food production companies to sell their products in local stores. For more information see <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-00900>

**Step Up Celebration.** I was delighted to attend The Step-Up youth employment program’s annual celebration in August. This year Step Up recruited, trained and placed nearly 1,400 young people (ages 14-21) in paid internships with over 200 employers. Step Up is a partnership of the City of Minneapolis, AchieveMpls, CareerForce Minneapolis and Project for Pride in Living that has provided over 28,000 internships since 2003.

**2018 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory.** On August 26 the Council received an update on our Greenhouse Gas emissions and our efforts to meet our goals of a 30% reduction in citywide greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80% or more reduction by 2050 (all from a 2006 baseline). Unfortunately, last year, despite reductions in emission from electricity use and transportation, our emissions were up 4.9% from 2017. For the first time, natural gas was the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and had increased 18% from 2017 to 2018. Electricity had been the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions until 2017, but we have seen a 41% decrease in electricity emissions alone since 2006. You can find the full report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate-action-goals/ghg-emissions>.

**True Social Cost of Carbon.** In September I expect the Council to approve a motion I have brought forward that would have our City Sustainability, Finance, Health and Attorney staff study and develop a recommendation or set of options for a social cost of carbon to be adopted by the Council. Clearly, greenhouse gas emissions and the climate crisis that is resulting from it are having, and will likely continue to have, significant and costly consequences on society. Understanding those costs will help us now and into the future. My motion asks staff to present their recommendations on or before November 18.

**Xcel Resource Plan Community Meetings.** The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will hold public meetings to share information and gather stakeholder input about the Xcel proposed 2020-2034 Integrated Resource Plan that sets out what energy sources they intend to use and invest in to provide electricity in the future. Two of the five meetings are in Minneapolis on

Monday, **October 21** at 2pm and again at 7pm at the Sabathani Community Center, Target Banquet Center, 310 East 38th Street. To see the plan go to [https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates\\_and\\_regulations/resource\\_plan\\_overview](https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/resource_plan_overview) and to learn more about what is at stake, why it matters please see <https://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/blog/2019/05/xcel-energy-s-2019-resource-plan-preview> and <https://environomicaliconoclast.blogspot.com/2019/04/xcels-integrated-resource-plan-what-is.html>

**PUC Meets In Minneapolis.** On September 4, for the first time I am aware of in the history of the state, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission held a meeting in the Council Chambers of Minneapolis City Hall. I am grateful for Chair Sieban, Vice chair Lischults and Commissioners Means and Tuma for attending and inviting me to the meeting. There they heard briefly from me, Mayor Frey, Council Vice President Jenkins, Council Member Fletcher, City staff and representatives from our two largest utility companies, Xcel and CenterPoint. The commissioners seemed impressed and interested in learning more about our Climate Action Plan, Clean Energy Partnership and other work to eliminate fossil fuel pollution. I am hopeful that they will be key supporters as we seek state level cooperation with future clean energy initiatives, including getting City authority to use a more sustainable building code and to implement a “save-as-you-pay” inclusive financing program to help more people save money while also reducing energy use. You can find the PUC agenda and presentations at <https://mn.gov/puc/newsroom/calendar/#/?i=1>

**Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance.** Following extensive community outreach this spring and summer, I am preparing to bring the redrafted Bring Your Own Bag ordinance forward to the Council for consideration this fall. I expect the public hearing to be set for **November 18**. Because of the state law change prohibiting an all-out ban on plastic bags, the new draft will allow single use plastic bags to be distributed but they could not be given away for free. The current proposal would require most businesses to charge at least 5 cents for every single use carryout bag they distribute. To learn more, see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/ZeroWaste/index.htm>.

**High Energy-Efficient Ranking.** Minneapolis has been ranked fourth out of 75 U.S. cities assessed for energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. This is the highest Minneapolis has ever ranked on this scorecard and was due, reportedly, in part by a several new policies I have worked on over the recent years, including the new residential energy disclosure requirements the Climate Action Plan, the Clean Energy Partnership and the Green Zones initiative. The ACEEE Scorecard (found at <https://aceee.org/local-policy/city-scorecard>), tracks cities’ policy efforts to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy. It is recognized by some as the most comprehensive national report that tracks city progress toward climate goals.

**Minneapolis Climate Action & Racial Equity Fund.** The Minneapolis Climate Action & Racial Equity Fund announced funding to three local organizations in August. The fund is a partnership of the City, The Minneapolis Foundation and the McKnight Foundation. The grants awarded are

\$25,000 to MN Renewable Now to do outreach by local residents to help engage and educate people about sustainable energy in an historically under resourced community; \$17,500 to Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light to help youth at Shiloh Temple and Masjid An-Nur conduct formal energy audits at both places and help community members set up energy audits in their homes; and \$25,000 to HOURCAR to help them develop an all-electric car-sharing network with 150 electric vehicles and 70 places to charge them. Half of the charging locations will be in diverse, high-poverty neighborhoods, and 10 of them will in Minneapolis Green Zones.

**Climate Action & Racial Equity Fund Round 2.** The deadline for the next round of the Minneapolis Climate Action & Racial Equity Fund grants for place-based, community-driven initiatives that reduce in greenhouse gas emissions, align with the goals of the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, and further the goals of the Minneapolis Strategic Racial Equity Plan is **September 16** at 4:30pm. For more information see <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/climate-action/> or contact Erin Jerabek Heelan at [erin@erinhconsulting.com](mailto:erin@erinhconsulting.com).

**Tetrachloroethylene (perc) Ban.** In August the Council unanimously approved strengthening our regulation of tetrachloroethylene (perc) in dry cleaning establishments ordinance to prohibit any use of tetrachloroethylene in any dry-cleaning facility. This follows years using our business assistance programs to help all Minneapolis dry cleaners switch to safer products. Use of the toxic material was particularly dangerous to employees and is known to cause cancer and may also damage the kidneys, liver, immune system and blood system, and affect reproduction and fetal development.

**Transportation Action Plan Update.** The Council received an update and engagement summary of our Transportation Action Plan in August. You can find it at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-00971> <http://go.minneapolismn.gov/>

**Extend the Greenway Ride and Rally.** This Sunday I will be joining the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Sierra Club Bike Tour and others to support clean transportation options. The event will include an electric car display and a bike ride and rally to extend the Midtown Greenway over the Mississippi River right in the heart of Minneapolis' Second Ward and to Saint Paul and onto Ayd Mill Road. With transportation now the leading contributor to climate change pollution in Minnesota, we need the environmental benefits and cost-savings of electric vehicles and other options now more than ever. The event is part of the 9th annual National Drive Electric Week, and will take place **Sunday, September 15th**, 12:30 – 4pm at Lake Monster Brewing, 550 Vandalia Street in Saint Paul. For information see <https://www.sierraclub.org/minnesota/tour>

**Bus-only Lanes.** We are implementing bus-only lanes on three major transit corridors. Bus lanes will be established on Hennepin Avenue between Franklin Avenue and Lake Street during peak weekday times, permanently on southbound Chicago Avenue from East 28th Street to the Chicago/Lake Transit Center and piloted on Nicollet Avenue from Franklin Avenue to Lake Street later this year. The lanes will be painted and signed to indicate parking restrictions that

will be in effect during peak hours. I am hopeful that these innovative programs will result in improved service and more bus riders.

**Nice Ride Electric Assist Bikes.** Nice Ride, the City's designated Bike sharing program, has added a limited pilot of 50 pedal-assist ebikes to their available bikes this summer. The ebikes are integrated into the existing Nice Ride system so riders can find, unlock, ride and dock an ebike just like any classic docking bike. Find more information at <https://www.niceridemn.com/blog/ebikes>.

**Semi-Truck Parking.** The Council has voted to work on an ordinance amendment to better regulate and restrict the parking of large commercial vehicles on streets in Minneapolis. This has been referred to the Transportation and Public Works Committee. This fall I expect there to be stakeholder engagement followed by a public hearing and, if all goes well, a new ordinance approved by the end of the year.

**10 Days Violence Free.** I was glad to author a resolution again this year in support for the second annual 10 Days Violence Free Twin Cities and declaring September 20-29, 2019, to be 10 Days Free from Violence in the City of Minneapolis. For more information and to find a full list of events visit <https://twincitiesnonviolent.org/>.

**New Regulatory Services Director.** I was happy to support Kim Keller who was approved last month to be the City's new Director of Regulatory Services. She will now oversee rental licensing, traffic control and animal care and control. "I stand before you ready to continue our arc toward equity – with an intentional emphasis on engagement" Keller said a short speech she gave to the Council Committee the day of the hearing on her appointment. "This doesn't mean that we don't still enforce or educate. It means that we have all three strategies available and can appropriately match the strategy with the situation." She continued, "My vision for Regulatory Services is four-fold: 1) to have a code that is reflective of our values and puts the needs and safety of people and pets first; 2) To organize our work in ways that are both effective and efficient, with data-informed, proactive programming; 3) to have well-established pathways for team members to develop and advance; and, 4) to ensure our staff are reflective of our communities and fully prepared to engage."

**City Coordinator Leaving.** In August, Nuria Rivera Vandermyde announced that she will be resigning as City Coordinator to take a new position in Austin Texas as their Deputy City Manager. It has been my pleasure to work with Nuria, first when she joined the City in 2013 as Director of Regulatory Services, then as Assistant City Coordinator and, most recently, as City Coordinator. Mark Ruff, finance director, will serve as interim Coordinator, until a more permanent replacement is approved.

**Biennial Budget Charter Amendment** On an 11 to 2 vote a proposed Charter Amendment failed to get the unanimous support needed to change the charter to require a 2-year cycle for budget approvals. I was one of the two "no" votes, along with Council President Lisa Bender, because I felt this change was unnecessary, unwise and undemocratic. I believe that we

currently have the flexibility to do a two-year budget, provided minimum requirements are met for publication by the mayor and a hearing each year by the Council. I also believe that a charter change of this magnitude, even if I thought it was a worthwhile move, should be put before the voters. For more information see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01413>.

**Chuck Lutz.** The Council honored Chuck Lutz in August who is retiring after a 40-year career of service to the City working for much of it as Deputy Director of the Community Planning and Economic Department. I have appreciated working with Chuck over the years and wish him the best in his retirement. The honorary resolution we presented him can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/2578/Chuck%20Lutz%20Honorary%20Resolution.pdf>

**Lisa Cerney.** In August, the Council honored Lisa Cerney for her service and dedication to the City of Minneapolis, including recently as the Deputy Director of Public Works and City Engineer. I thank Lisa for her years of work for the City and wish her the best in her new position as Hennepin County's assistant county administrator for public works. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/2546/Lisa%20Cerney%20Honorary%20Resolution.pdf>

**New U of Mn President.** I, along with the full City Council, welcomed the new University President Gabel to Minneapolis with a formal resolution and an opportunity to address the full City Council in August. To my knowledge, this was the first time any new president made such an introductory address to a Minneapolis City Council. I am hopeful that her new leadership will bring new levels of collaboration and creativity with the neighborhoods surrounding the University and the City as whole and with the University District Alliance in particular. U of M President Joan Gabel officially began her service as the 17th University of Minnesota System President on July 1 and is the first woman to hold this position in the 168-year history of the University.

**Arsenic Triangle Super Fund Site.** The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering removing most of the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Site from its list of superfund sites. The site covers 1,480 acres, including portions of Longfellow and Seward, centered around Hiawatha Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street where a pesticide plant that used arsenic operated many years ago. The EPA wants to partially remove the site from the Superfund list because they have concluded that they have effectively cleaned up the soil contamination, and the site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment. This included removing soil that contained arsenic at more than 600 properties. A small number of properties will remain as part of the Superfund site until cleanup is completed at those properties. For more information see <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0509136>.

**U of M Bikeway.** The planned for U of M bikeway improvements are underway and most will be completed this fall. This includes changes to street markings, curb placements and traffic signals. The project will include 2.6 miles of protected bikeways connecting the University of Minnesota and the surrounding neighborhoods of Como, Marcy Holmes, and Cedar Riverside

and will also be incorporated into the new design of the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge. For further information about the U of M Protected Bikeways Project see <http://www.minneapolis.gov/bicycles/projects/uofmbikeways>

**Copacabana Lounge.** I have been informed by Pablo Antonio Hernandez Camera that he is working to open a new restaurant, Copacabana Lounge, at 2713 E Lake Street, and will be leasing the space from the current owner. He is pursuing the licenses and permits needed to operate a full restaurant, bar with full liquor licenses and with entertainment that could include live music. He also hopes to have outdoor seating in a sidewalk café and host private events. The establishment appears to have a website at <https://copacabanalounge.secureserversites.net/>.

**New Leadership of 3rd Police Precinct.** In August, I was sorry to learn the Mike Sullivan was removed as Inspector of the third precinct. I have greatly appreciated the service and commitment of former Inspector Sullivan over the years I have worked with him. His commitment, creativity and willingness to work with the residents and businesses has been appreciated by many. I look forward to working with the new Inspector, Sean McGinty.

**Sewer Work on Franklin Avenue SE.** Recently a few residents in Prospect Park on East River Terrace and Melbourne Avenue contacted me about concerning odors that were in their homes that are likely related to a City project involving the rehabilitation of sewer pipes and the use styrene. The Surface Water & Sewer Division has a contractor in the area performing CIPP lining on the sewer main pipe on Franklin Avenue SE. According to City Public Works staff: “The concentrations that residents may be encountering are not at levels that would be considered harmful. Pouring a gallon of water into sinks, floor drains, or other drainage openings, especially those that are seldom used and whose traps may be empty of water, should prevent any odor from entering your building or home. If you do detect an odor, open your windows and turn on a fan to help ventilate the building.” If you have concerns about odors in your home, please feel free to contact me and my office and/or call 311.

**Northstar at Siebert Field Apartments.** Greg Jansma, owner of this property at 1611 8th Street SE, has submitted land use applications to add 5 residential stories to a one-story parking structure and a roof terrace on top of the existing apartment building. He is applying for a conditional use permit to allow 20 additional dwelling units, a conditional use permit to increase the maximum allowed height from 4 stories, 56'-0", to 6 stories, 80,' and a variance to reduce the minimum parking requirement from 59 spaces to 48 spaces. For more information see [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms\\_p-220233.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms_p-220233.pdf)

**Maya Commons Ground Breaking.** On September 11, I was delighted to participate in the grand opening for the Riverton Brook Ave Student Housing Coop, and the groundbreaking for the new Project for Pride in Living (PPL) affordable housing project, Maya Commons, at 1220 Brooke Ave SE. It is good to see this wonderful final phase of the redevelopment of the old

Bunge grain elevator site. This will provide needed affordable and repurpose a treasured historic landmark.

**10th Ave SE Bridge Project.** The Council has approved the contract with Lunda Construction Company for over \$49 million to complete the 10th Ave SE River Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Construction of the water main began this spring and the new main should be in service next March. Bridge construction will begin in this fall and will not be completed until mid-2021. There will be traffic impacts and detours during the 2020 construction season. For more information visit <https://www.10thavebridge.com/>

**West Bank City Parking Lot A for Sale.** The City is preparing another Request for Proposals for the sale and development of the large surface parking lot (known as Lot A) and adjoining land owned by the City and County across from the Mixed Blood theater and Riverside Plaza for a new transit-oriented development. So far there has been a focus on the creation of a new Public Market, similar to the Global Market at Chicago and Lake St. I am also hopeful that a project of this size can offer additional community benefits. Other proposed desired outcomes include a preference for a nonprofit or cooperative to operate the market; both housing rental and ownership housing; office, clinic, and/or youth programming space; a 10 story or greater building on at least a portion of the site; an emphasis on transit-oriented development and design elements that will increase pedestrian and bicycle connections and access to the 2 nearby LRT stations; environmentally sustainable design; improvements to the public realm including new sidewalks, public plaza space and additional greenery; consideration of traffic circulation and access for both existing and new businesses in the project design; incorporation replacement public parking as part of the development and that consider modal parking solutions that could transition to other uses in the future. I would also like to see us explore affordable homeownership and examine both park board and library involvement in a new development. The Cedar Riverside Partnership has established a task force to review and guide the Request for Proposals process going forward. This group includes a variety of stakeholders, including representatives from the local neighborhood and business organization.

**Mino-Bimaadiziwin Apartments.** The Council has approved selling a small piece of land and using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Exempt Multifamily Entitlement Housing Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$22,000,000 for the Mino-Bimaadiziwin affordable housing project at 22nd Street East and Cedar Avenue where the navigation center once stood. Mino-Bimaadiziwin is being proposed as a 110-unit, six-story mixed-use, mixed income project with resident amenity space, a Health and Wellness Center, and a Red Lake Nation Embassy on the first floor. Once completed, the project will contain a mix of 10 efficiency, 15 one-bedroom, 55 two-bedroom, and 30 three-bedroom units. The unit affordability mix is 24 units at 30% AMI, 42 units at 50% AMI, and 44 units at 60% AMI.

**New Hotel at 2800 University Ave SE.** Jeff Barnhart of Prospect Park Properties has submitted land use applications for a new six-story hotel project he is proposing on property his company owns at 2800 University Avenue. It would add a longer stay hotel associated and next to the Hampden Inn he already owns and operates nearby. The project will likely require a rezoning,

conditional use permits and variances. For more details see

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-219903.pdf>

**Proposed Hotel at Bedford and University.** The Momentum Design Group is working on a Residence Inn project that would be developed at Bedford and University at the current site of the old Schneider Drug Store. It will be 5 story building with 103 hotel rooms. They are hoping to have City land use approvals made by the end of the year.

**Pollution Clean Up Grants.** The Council has accepted “brownfield” clean up grants from the spring round the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Metropolitan Council’s Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA). This includes grants of for Bessemer at Seward Commons, located at 2200, 2206, 2210, 2214 and 2218 Snelling Ave for \$328,488, and Malcolm Yards Market, 501 30th Ave SE, for \$73,451 and \$103,900.

**Bessemer Apartments Tax Increment Financing.** People are invited you to comment on the Bessemer Apartments Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan that can be reviewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/public/index.htm>. If approved this will help finance the construction of a 128-unit apartment building at 22nd Street East and Snelling Avenue near the Franklin Light Rail Station. The Plan establishes a new redevelopment TIF district to help finance various public redevelopment costs and includes a budget for the use of tax increment revenue generated by the new apartment building. The City Council will vote on the Plan following a public hearing at the Housing Policy & Development Committee at 1:30pm on Wednesday, October 30 in Room 317 City Hall. For more information contact [Emily.carr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Emily.carr@minneapolismn.gov).

**Minnesota Hillel Financing.** The Council has authorized the use of up to \$5.5 million in tax exempt revenue bonds to assist Minnesota Hillel to complete a total upgrade of the facility located at 1521 University Ave SE. Minnesota Hillel is a non-profit organization with the mission of serving the Jewish student population at the University of Minnesota. Most of the space in the facility is for non-religious purposes. The one room that is to be used for religious activities will be funded separately as required by law.

**Arthur-Williams Walkway.** I held a community meeting this month about the Public Works Department’s plans to rebuild the Arthur-Williams walkway that links, among other things, Glendale to Pratt School. I view this as a critical pedestrian connection, and I’m glad to see the City stepping up to reopen it. I expect that this work will be completed later this fall or in the winter.

**Walkable Community Workshop.** With my support, the City Health Department has applied for and been awarded a state grant for a Walkable Community Workshop to improve pedestrian safety in the Glendale Townhomes area. A half-day workshop will be held on **October 4th** 9am-2pm at Luxton Park Recreation Center. In addition to looking at access to the light rail and throughout the townhomes area, I am hoping that it will look at pedestrian crossings of 27th

Ave SE. I have heard that the pedestrian crossings on 27th Ave SE and Essex St SE is dangerous, including for children going to and from a charter school and Luxton Park.

**Vermillion Art and Architecture.** The applicant for the Vermillion Art and Architecture project, now renamed as The Wallis Prospect Park, has withdrawn their application to amend their Planned Unit Development and Conditional Use Permit applications as needed due to a proposed increase in the number of units they are planning to build. Depending on how a current lawsuit gets resolved, revised plans could be submitted for approval later this year or next.

**Brickhouse Lofts.** The owners of the Brickhouse Lofts at 150 26<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, informed me that they are pursuing an amendment to their Conditional Use Permit related to the reuse of the old industrial building, of their project. They're proposing to eliminate the residential floors that were approved and would allow a floor of office leasehold space to align with the second floor of the next-door brick building they have renovated. The ground floor of the Industrial Building would remain as indoor parking.

**Sale of Shriner's Hospital.** The University of Minnesota has a purchase agreement that will be considered by the Board of Regents for approval at their September meeting. You can find more details at [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/docket/FIN\\_SEP\\_2019.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/docket/FIN_SEP_2019.pdf). The University is intending to use the facility as a center for pediatric brain research.

**Sale of Murphy's Warehouse.** The University is likely selling the property they purchased in 2015 known as Murphy Warehouse in the Southeast industrial area at 701 24th Avenue SE and 2222 Elm Street SE. They have selected Element, Inc./Ryan Companies US, Inc. as the preferred buyer following a Request for Proposal process. Pending approval by the Board of regents the closing is expected to occur on/before December 18, 2019.

**26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Pedestrian Refuge Island and Traffic Signal Project.** The Transportation and Public Works Committee is recommending approval of the layout and installation of a pedestrian refuge island and a new traffic signal on 26th Ave S, between E Franklin Ave and S 9th St as well as authorizing a construction cooperative agreement with Seward Towers Corporation, in an amount up to \$151,000, for its construction.

**City Update Sign-Up.** You can subscribe to get City updates on a variety of topics by email or text at <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new>

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

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** My Community "Office Hours" in the ward occur on 4 Monday mornings each month from 10:00 to 11:30am. Please feel free to call the office 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 the Afro Deli, 720 Washington Ave SE, and  
Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.

Cam Gordon

Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward

673-2202, 296-0579

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

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2>

<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>