

Second Ward November 2019 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

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Snow Emergency Parking Rules. Stay informed this winter to help prevent yourself and others from getting tickets and tows when a Snow Emergency is declared by using the automated 612-348-SNOW hotline, the website <http://www.minneapolismn.gov>, the lookup feature at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snowStreetLookup>, email and text alerts you can sign up for at [minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_esubscribe](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_esubscribe), and the Android and iPhone Snow Emergency apps available to smart phone users.

2020 Budget. The Council is set to approve next year's budget in December. The 2020 Mayor's recommended budget of \$1.62 billion is a \$54.3 million (3.5%) increase from the 2019 budget of \$1.56 billion. The Board of Estimate and Taxation has approved the Mayor's recommendation of raising the total amount levied by \$24.3 million (6.95%) from \$350 million in 2019 to \$374.3 million in 2020. The proposal recommends maintaining services at current levels across all departments with notable modifications being made to better support affordable housing, increase the police budget and fund business development. There will be a public hearing on the Mayor's proposal on **December 4** at 6:05pm. Council amendments will be considered on **December 6**, 10am-3pm with a final public hearing followed by possible amendments and the final budget adoption vote on **December 11** starting at 6:05pm. More 2020 Budget information can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/index.htm>. Comments can be submitted at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>.

Budget Amendments. I am working on several budget amendments. One would invest \$30-50,000 to further develop a Children's Saving Account program and another would redirect \$50,000 to fund another season of the successful Youth Outreach Workers in the Cedar Riverside and Seward areas. A third amendment I am working on would put \$520,000 into the climate change programs supported by the half-percent increase to energy utility franchise fees, to ensure that we are spending the additional approximately \$2.8 million that was raised by that increase on new climate-related programs, as we said we would. I am also exploring shifting funding to pay for two studies that would be completed by outside contractors. One would be to conduct a staffing study of the Police Department and the other to study potential impacts of a rent stabilization ordinance for Minneapolis. I would also like us to do more to support alternatives to payday lending. I would also likely support amendments that call for more investment in youth development, support for seniors, address the opioid crisis, and improve mental health emergency response.

Intentional Community Cluster Developments. The City Council has approved the Intentional Community Cluster Development ordinance that I have been working on for most of this year.

You can learn more about this innovative idea led by Hennepin Healthcare and Street Voices for Change that could provide very low cost housing at <https://www.hennepinhealthcare.org/envision-community/> and at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-221296.pdf>. I hope that this will result in new affordable housing alternatives that will be welcomed into communities throughout the City.

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. A redrafted Bring Your Own Bag ordinance was passed unanimously by the Council this month. Because of the state law change prohibiting an all-out ban on plastic bags, the amended ordinance will allow single use plastic bags, as well as paper, to be distributed but they could not be given away for free. The new law requires most businesses to collect at least 5 cents for every single use carryout bag they distribute as part of the checkout payment process. I am hoping that this will encourage those shoppers who are not already bringing their own bag to start doing so more often. To learn more, see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/ZeroWaste/index.htm>.

Mayor and Council Salary Ordinance. The Council unanimously approved the ordinance I authored with Council Member Johnson that establishes clear minimal transparent procedures for setting compensation levels for the Mayor and City Council Members. This can happen only once a term to impact the salaries for the following term. We will now require proper notice and review through the normal Council Committee process to prevent the disturbing process that was used last term from happening again. You can find more on the new ordinance at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00084> and more about last terms process at <http://www.startribune.com/council-members-don-t-let-us-raise-our-own-pay-without-more-scrutiny/>

2020 Legislative Agenda. In November the Council approved our 2020 legislative agenda that includes funding requests of \$20 million for the Upper Harbor Terminal and \$1.5 million for the Regional Wellness and Training Center. We added items of support for legislation that would allow the City to set downtown taxing district boundaries, promote homelessness prevention and establish a new distressed rental properties financing program. We are going on record supporting the Metropolitan Council's request of \$50 million for the Busway Capital Improvement Program to fund the D Line, and the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's request for \$240 million for affordable housing. You can find the 2020 agenda as approved at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/11175/2020%20Legislative%20Agenda%20and%20Policy%20Positions.pdf>

Conversion Therapy Ban. With my enthusiastic support, the Council has approved an ordinance prohibiting the practice of so-called conversion "therapy" of minors in the City. This refers to the widely discredited and dangerous practices that treat gender identify, sexual preference or orientation as some kind of disorder and have resulted in great harm to many people. Bans on conversion therapy exist in 18 states and I hope that it will soon be banned in Minnesota as well. See <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01179> for more.

Transgender Equity Council. In December we will get our annual update on the Transgender Equity Council. You can learn more at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01365>. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/Equity/TransgenderEquity/index.htm>

Support for DACA Recipients. The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments November 12 on whether the Trump administration's termination of the DACA program was lawful with a decision expected to be issued by June. The City is exploring ways to support our residents who are DACA recipients during this time and recommends that DACA recipients should consult with an attorney for advice on filing renewal applications before a decision is issued by the Supreme Court. Organizations ready to provide information about DACA renewal eligibility include Volunteer Lawyers Network 612-752-6677 and Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota at 651-641-1011. The City has opposed all efforts to rescind the DACA program and is committed to highlighting the importance of people in our DACA community. More information about DACA and other immigration matters can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira/index.htm>.

Police Contract. I am encouraged to see a coalition of concerned community members and organizations supporting improvements to the police contract which is coming up for renewal at the end of this year. The police federation contract is one of the most significant labor agreements that the City Council approves and having seriously and focused involvement in it like this can only help us make better decisions about it at City Hall. Please look at the thoughtful and reasonable recommendations and let me and my colleagues on the City Council know what you think. <https://www.facebook.com/MPLS-For-A-Better-Police-Contract-104459077637901/>.

Prosecutorial Services to Crime Victims. The Council has secured grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety totaling \$225,500 to fund a full time, two-year Victim Witness Specialist position in the City Attorney's office as well as for increased outreach and training.

911 Response Task Force. The 911 Task Force has brought forward its report that you can find at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01297>. In it there are several promising recommendations for making changes that could improve how quickly and effectively we respond to calls for help and the quality of those responses.

Syringe Drop Boxes. The City is installing syringe drop boxes in public spaces to provide places for anyone to safely dispose of used syringes. The pilot program is intended to result in less syringe litter which can cause injuries and spread disease and will include 10 drop box locations. Industrial Hygiene Services Corporation will safely empty the syringe drop boxes weekly and report to the City with data that will include the number of syringes collected and ways the boxes are being used.

Opioid Crisis Response. The City Council has accepted \$894,346 from the U.S. Department of Justice to help identify, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic over the next

2 years. This will give us critically important support to address this epidemic that has seen overdose calls to 911 climb from 286 in 2015 to 954 in 2018 – a 233% increase. Between 2000 and 2017 opioid overdose deaths in the state increased by seven times. Find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/opioidresponse.

Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Following the Metropolitan Council’s approval of the new Comprehensive Plan this fall, the City Council formally set January 1, 2020 as its effective date. Now, according to state law, the City must review our “fiscal devices” and official controls and, if necessary, amend them to ensure they do not conflict with the Plan. To help do this the Council has established a work group that I will serve on to manage the implementation of the many interrelated policies outlined in the plan. I am excited about getting to work on some of the changes I championed and insuring that implementation is done carefully to serve present and future needs while protecting what is best about our city and improving our natural and built environment. From now on, any amendments the City Council wants to make to the Plan itself will require Met Council approval.

Triplexes. The first of the changes made as part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan implementation was an ordinance amendment approved this month 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. To learn more about this please see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/planning/WCMSP-220319>

True Social Cost of Carbon. On **December 2**, in response to a staff direction I moved, and the Council approved last month, the Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement Committee will consider a recommendation for setting a social cost of carbon to be 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. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Agenda/PECE/1284>.

Invasive Tree Ordinance. There will be a public hearing on **December 2**, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers, on an ordinance I have authored that will allow more proactive action by property owners to deal with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Currently, the Park Board can condemn a tree on private property that is infested with EAB, and the City can condemn a tree on private property that is dead or hazardous. When the Park Board or City take this action, property owners can get some help in dealing with the cost of the tree removal, by paying for it over several years on their property taxes. The problem is that this option has, until now, only been available to people whose trees are visibly infested or already dead, and there has been no proactive option. After this ordinance passes, people who have an ash tree on their property and want to proactively remove it and replace it with another tree will have that option. This is important, because there are estimated to be over 200,000 ash trees on private property in Minneapolis. In other cities that have gone through the EAB crisis, the insects reached a “critical mass” that led to the entire ash inventory dying in a few short years. Waiting for Minneapolis ash trees to

die at once will lead to a short-term emergency that will strain the capacity of everyone involved. This ordinance is one small step to trying to prevent that outcome. Minneapolis has a Pollinator Friendly Resolution that urges all residents and property owners to avoid using systemic insecticides, including those that are used to kill EAB pests (but which may also kill other, non-target insect species). You can find that resolution here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/policies/minneapolis-pollinator-resolution> and more on the new ordinance at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01330>.

Sustainable Building Policy. My colleague Jeremy Schroeder and I are bringing forward a resolution on Monday, **December 2**, that will commit the City of Minneapolis to having a Sustainable Building Policy. This policy will apply to all projects that are directly supported or subsidized by the City, with the intent of improving the environmental performance of these buildings. The resolution will lay out the four areas: multifamily affordable housing, one to three-unit housing, economic development projects, and buildings that the City itself builds or leases that likely will each require a distinct approach, based on the sustainable building requirements that are already in place for some of them. Building energy use accounts for the vast majority of carbon emissions in Minneapolis, and the single largest source of carbon emissions in the city is now natural gas. While I hope to pass this next year we will also continue to advocate at the Legislature for a voluntary enhanced building energy code that cities could opt into – which would be applicable to all buildings, not just those directly supported by City subsidy or participation. You can find the proposed resolution here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01384>.

Climate Emergency Declaration. Council Member Schroeder and I are bringing forward a resolution declaring a climate emergency on Monday, **December 2**, based on the Congressional climate emergency legislation that you can find here: <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/download/climate-emergency-resolution-text?id=F88E2686-5B9E-4B3E-A50A-03B78AA613F9&download=1&inline=file>. I believe we need to take this step because we are in a climate emergency, and it is past time for us to start acting with the urgency that this crisis demands. Going on record in this way provides further rationale for increasing local action to fight the climate crisis. And it will, I hope, send a message to other units of government around the state and the country that we should all be passing similar resolutions and following them up with bold, persistent, and effective action to reduce carbon emissions while creating a more just and equitable economy.

Accessory Dwelling Units. I am moving forward with a Comprehensive Plan recommendation to allow accessory dwelling units on non-owner-occupied properties. Currently, they are only allowed on properties with an owner-occupant. Under my proposal they would be allowed on any residential lot and would be considered an additional unit when determining if a lot had one, two or three units.

Anti-Displacement & Rent Stabilization. In response to a report on Housing Stability and Anti-Displacement that you can find here, <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01102>, the Council is considering contracting with a research team to study the potential impacts and

benefits of a rent stabilization policy. I am working to add the study to the budget we approve for 2020 and I hope that it will be completed the first half of next year.

Inclusionary Housing Policy. The inclusionary housing policy that would require some percentage of affordable housing units in new apartment buildings built in the City will be considered by the Council next month. The current proposal appears to exclude full time students from qualifying for affordable units unless they meet rather onerous federal guidelines even when the federal rules would not otherwise apply. I am pushing for a more flexible option that would allow low-income full-time students who are eligible for the federal Pell grant to also be eligible for required affordable units that are not subject to the federal rules. The Inclusionary Zoning Policy will be considered at the Housing Policy & Development Committee on Wednesday, **December 4** at 1:30pm and by the full Council on Friday, **December 13** at 9:30am. You can also learn more here

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-221310.pdf>

Lot Combinations in Lower-density Zoning Districts. The Council has approved limiting lot combinations in lower-density zoning districts. In the 2040 Plan new Interior 1 districts generally do not allow combinations, Interior 2 permits limited combinations, Interior 3 supports combined lots. As approved, the maximum lot area is 9,000 sq. feet for lot combinations in all lower to medium density residential areas (R1-R4 and OR1 Districts). You can learn more at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01198>.

Minneapolis Homes Development Assistance Round 4. In December, the Council is scheduled to approve this year's Minneapolis Homes funding awards for the construction and sale of new housing for home ownership. This round includes the sale of more than 48 city-owned vacant lots with several going to women-owned and people of color-owned developers. The list includes a few duplexes, as well as several affordable and energy efficient single-unit homes. For more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/DevelopmentAssistance>.

Maximum Occupancy Requirements. The Planning Commission is recommending eliminating maximum occupancy requirements in the zoning code. Currently, in low and medium density districts, the zoning code allows for one family plus up to two unrelated persons provided that the total number of people living there isn't more than five. In the higher density districts, the zoning code limits the maximum occupancy to one family plus four unrelated people as long as the total people living there is less than six. The number of family members living in a unit is not limited in the zoning code at all but is regulated in the housing maintenance code and is based on health and safety standards. The proposal is to rely solely on the housing maintenance code to determine maximum occupancy and no longer have the City need to be concerned with the relatedness people. You can find the full staff report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-221446.pdf>

Stable Homes Stable Schools Quarterly Report. This month we received the 4th Quarter Report on the Stable Homes Stable Schools program that you can find at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01224>. I remain strongly supportive of this program, which stabilizes housing for low-income families at risk of displacement, who have children in our schools. It is a great collaboration between the City, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority.

Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Ordinance. The City is preparing a Request for Proposals to contract with an external entity to assist us with drafting our new Tenant Opportunity to Purchase ordinance. We are seeking help in better understanding how the policy might interact with current real estate timelines and with stakeholder engagement. We are hoping to be able to have a selection of a consultant made by the end of the year and the language to be drafted before June.

Tenant Relocation Assistance. There will be a hearing on December 3rd on a new ordinance being proposed by my colleague Phillippe Cunningham that would establish relocation assistance for renters who are displaced due to the revocation or cancellation of a rental license through no fault of their own. The provisions require the payment of renter relocation assistance in an amount equal to three (3) months of rent. For more see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01243>.

Emergency Housing Revolving Loan Fund. There will be a hearing on December 3 on amendments to City's Emergency Housing Repair ordinance which authorizes the City to create an Emergency Board to remedy unresolved emergency violations. Under the proposal, owners and occupants would present evidence to the Board to access revolving loan funding which was increased in the 2019 budget by \$2 million. For more information see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01174>.

2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). The Council has approved this year's capital funding to support Emergency Shelters that serve people suffering from homelessness. This is made possible because of federal ESG funding we were awarded earlier this year. The Council approved awarding Our Saviours Community Services \$225,081 to address the ventilation issues, roof repairs and the purchase of new mattresses; Ascension Place \$151,396 to address the needed repairs; and, The Bridge for Youth \$42,032 for an intercom system, elevator repairs and upgrades to their security system.

2019 SRO/Shared Housing Pilot Program. The Housing Committee has recommended funding a project as part of the Single Room Occupancy/Shared Housing Pilot program we initiated earlier this year. The project, called Exodus 2, will be in the 6th Ward, and includes 167 units (126 @ 30% AMI, 41 @ 50% AMI). It will use \$3,315,000 in City funds to help address the homelessness crisis by preserving and adding deeply affordable permanent and transitional supportive housing.

2019 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Awards. The Council has approved awarding over \$18,000,000 for 12 projects as a result of the 2019 Affordable Housing Trust Fund request for proposals. These awards will help create 696 new affordable units and stabilize or preserve 326. Of these 1,022 units, 211 will be Project Based Section 8 assisted units, 375 units will be affordable to households at or below 30% AMI (\$30,000) and 390 units will be affordable to households at or below 50% AMI (50,000). There are three projects this year that also help satisfy the Senior Housing Policy Goal of 35 units in each Ward by 2025: Snelling Yards Senior Housing in Ward 12; 1345 Minneapolis in Ward 1; and Bryn Mawr Senior Apartments in Ward 7. The two projects in Ward 2 neighborhoods include Wadaag Commons and Malcolm Yards. Wadaag Commons in Seward could receive up to \$720,000 to help construct 32 units of affordable family housing with 16 3- and 4-bedroom units marketed for immigrant families. Malcolm Yards, in Prospect Park, will use up to \$1,000,000 to help construct 142 units in a mixed income development, with 8 deeply affordable units set aside for low income tenants with disabilities and 8 for high priority homeless tenants. You can find more details on all the projects at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5157>.

The Minneapolis 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program. The City of Minneapolis is now accepting applications for this program that helps property owners get reduced property taxes for keeping some or all of their rental units affordable for 10 years. Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis with a final deadline of January 8, 2020. Since the launch of the program in May 2018, the program has partnered with over 50 property owners to help preserve over 700 affordable housing units. For more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-214366>.

Short-term Rentals Ordinance. The Council has voted to take up amendments, being authored by Council Member Fletcher, to better regulate short term rentals like HomeAway, Vrbo Expedia, HomeToGo, Airbnb and Sonder.

Public Housing Listening Session. On **December 18** from 6:30-8:30pm at the Harrison Recreation Center (503 Irving Ave. No.) I will be co-convening a listening session for public housing residents with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board chair, Sharmarke Issa. We especially want to hear from scattered site residents about their issues and concerns.

5G. In response to several concerns from residents about recent installations of 5G microwave cellular network communication technology in the City, I have asked our staff and advisory committees to research the issue. Our Public Health Advisory committee has established a working group to study it and Health, City Attorney and other staff are tracking how other cities, states and countries are responding. According to the attorney's research the City is largely preempted from regulating small cell installations in the public right-of-way or on City infrastructure. At the federal level there is a preemption provision that states, "No State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radio frequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions." To learn more there is a easy to read article with

references at <https://www.howtogeek.com/423720/how-worried-should-you-be-about-the-health-risks-of-5g/>. You can read about concerns that U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal raised in February at <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/at-senate-commerce-hearing-blumenthal-raises-concerns-on-5g-wireless-technologys-potential-health-risks>.

Youth Master Plan. The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board is drafting a strategic plan to guide its work and the collaboration of its jurisdictional partners, the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board that we have been calling a Youth Master Plan. Early next year I expect to have a resolution ready to present to the Council to support the plan and approve incorporating it into our work.

Child Friendly City. The City Council has authorized making Minneapolis a United Nations designated Child Friendly City. To do so, next year we will enter into a formal memorandum of understanding with UNICEF USA; conduct a child rights situational analysis, which is an examination of statistics, local policies, laws and academic research relevant to the situation and well-being of children; and begin development a Child Friendly Cities Initiative action plan.

Vision Zero. In December, the Council be asked to approve a new Vision Zero Action Plan that is intended to help us prevent and eliminate traffic related fatalities and injuries. You can find the draft plan at <https://www.visionzerompls.com/>. I am very supportive of its goals and strategies but plan to make one small amendment that would add a provision to require some vehicles, especially large trucks, to use technologies that would improve safety. This is aimed at preventing further injuries and fatalities to people walking and biking resulting from turning trucks.

Speed Limit Ordinance. Following a law change at the state legislature that has empowered cities to make decisions about setting speed limits as low as **20 mph** on city streets, Council member Reich has introduced an ordinance that would articulate the process for establishing speed limits on local streets. You can find more information, including the ordinance language at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01092>. The public hearing on this will be held at the Transportation and Public Works committee at 10:00am on Tuesday, **December 3rd**.

ADA Transition Plan. The City is seeking public comment on the draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for Public Works. The City is accepting comments on the draft plan through **December 27**. People can attend an open house on the plan at 4:30-6:30pm on Monday, **December 16** in the Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall. The draft was developed with input from community stakeholders, including the Minneapolis Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Committee on Aging, partner agencies and two working groups of City staff. The ADA Transition Plan outlines recommendations for four types of infrastructure that impact accessibility for people walking or rolling in the public right of way: pedestrian curb ramps, accessible pedestrian signal systems, sidewalks and street crossings. Go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/ADATransition/ADATransition> for more

information about the draft ADA Transition Plan for Public Works. Comments can be made online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/ADATransition/ADATransition> or by contacting Kelsey Fogt at Kelsey.fogt@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3885.

Parking Meter System Refresh. The City Council has approved soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to supply pay stations and management software for the city's on-street metered parking system. The system currently consists of 8,400 parking spaces with equipment that is reaching the end of its useful life. This is intended to help replace equipment for existing pay stations; ensure all payment equipment is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act; convert the remaining single space metered areas to the multi-space pay station format; improve the placement and distribution of pay stations; and explore new equipment features such as larger displays, color screens, improved solar charging panels, more efficient battery options.

Clean Car Standards. I was glad to hear that the Governor has directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to implement clean car standards in Minnesota. Rulemaking is now underway and include extensive outreach over a 15-month period. To get more involved and learn more go to www.mn.gov/cleancars and email cleancarsmn.pca@state.mn.us.

Solar Incentives. If you are thinking about getting solar panels for your home or business, you can get technical and financial assistance. Minneapolis residents may qualify for incentives between \$1,500 and \$4,000 from the City depending on the size of the array, and businesses can earn up to \$50,000. The incentives are awarded first-come, first-served with an early bird application deadline of December 1, 2019 with 3 more opportunities to apply in 2020 if funding allows. For more information about the City's Green Cost Share Program, call 311 or email GreenCostShare@Minneapolismn.gov.

MPCA Air Quality Meeting. Last spring, the MPCA installed new air quality monitoring sensors at 44 sites in neighborhoods around Minneapolis and St. Paul. These sensors monitor and send back data daily to the MPCA on a variety of pollutants including fine particles, ozone, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide. The project, funded by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, runs through the summer of 2021. You can see results of the monitoring so far and get more information at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/assessing-urban-air-quality-project#community>

Green Business Awards. In Decembner the Council will recognize a variety of projects that reflect the breadth of energy efficiency, solar energy, and local air pollution reduction work being done across the city as well as three highlighting energy efficiency projects completed by participants in the City's new 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program. Work undertaken by these property owners helps improve the quality and comfort of naturally occurring affordable housing and decreases energy costs seen by tenants. In 2018, the Green Cost Share served over 50 properties and helped reduce an estimated 7.4 million pounds of carbon dioxide and 25,000 pounds of local air pollution. My congratulations to this years awardees: the Midtown YWCA, Electric Machinery Company, Fig + Farro, Urban Ventures, Wellington Management, Mississippi

Mushrooms, Broadway Resource Recovery, Ron Hendrickson, Beth Barron, Dean Bona, the Lake Street Council, Minneapolis Foundation and Clean Energy Resource Teams. For more info see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5355>.

2020 - 2022 Zero Waste Action Plan. In November the Council got an update on the Zero Waste Plan implementation. Strategies we will focus on in 2020 – 2022 include obtaining better data to determine baseline and evaluate progress; understanding current waste diversion programs for all sectors; and, promoting benefits of reducing and diverting waste. The city is also exploring innovative waste reduction ideas such as integrated utility hubs, anaerobic digestion, biochar use and strategies for the management of construction and demolition debris. You can find more at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5180>.

Solar Garden on City Building. The Council has authorized leasing space on the roof of the new East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility at 2635 University Avenue NE for space to Greenway Solar LLC to develop a community solar garden specially targeted towards low-income households. The new solar installation will be between 700kWAC - 1000kWAC in size, providing enough electricity to power 120 to 170 households. Subscribing households will see a 20% - 30% reduction in their electricity bills. The installation of the garden will occur in the second half of 2020. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5108>.

Winter Farmers Markets. You can find farmers markets that will be open during this winter at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/farmersmarkets>

Homegrown Food Council. Next month the Council will approve the appointments, and reappointments, to our Minneapolis Food Council. I am grateful for everyone who will to serve in this way and want to specially acknowledge Ward 2 residents, Melissa Anderson and Teresa Opheim, for their commitment participate in the Food Council.

Art and the Creative Economy. The Council has established a workgroup to draft a plan to improve how the City supports public art, the creative economy, and creative cultural work. It is to build on the recommendations of a recent report and better align the City's internal structure to accelerate the achievement of the City's racial equity goals and the successful implementation of the City's Cultural Districts initiative. I expect a draft to be presented to the the Council in April or May of 2020. You can find the November report and presentation at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/COW/1258>.

Election 2020. On November 3, 2020, there will be a general election for the Minnesota Legislature, U.S. Congress and U.S. President. There will also be a presidential primary **March 3** and a state primary on **August 11**. The City's Early Vote Center at 980 E. Hennepin Ave will open **January 17** for early voting in the presidential primary. Hennepin County will also have early voting at the Government Center at 300 S 6th St. The primaries will only be for the major parties and people will need to choose which party's ballot they want. More information can be found at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>

Community Connections Conference 2020. Next year's Community Connections Conference will be held on Saturday, **February 1, 2020** from 8:00am-4:00pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This is the annual gathering organized by the City's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department intended to foster connections between the residents of Minneapolis, community groups, neighborhoods and local government. You can learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/conf>.

Public Service Center Block. The City is seeking proposals for the sale and redevelopment of the Public Service Center Block that is located near City Hall in Downtown and is bounded by 3rd Street South, 4th Street South, 3rd Avenue South and 2nd Avenue South. The City currently owns four parcels on the block, including the Public Service Center building and the City of Lakes building. The City parcels are about 1.6 acres or two-thirds of the block. Proposals are due by **Friday, December 6, 2019 by 4:00 p.m.** The RFP and more information can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/PSCBlock>.

Public Housing Director Search. This summer I agreed to serve on the Search Committee to help find a new Director of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. The Housing Authority has hired the firm of Cohen Taylor that began recruiting and screening candidates this month. Early next year I expect the interviews to be conducted and from one to three candidates to be recommended to the Public Housing Authority Board for consideration. It is my hope that the search committee will bring forward at least two names for consideration and that there will be ample time for community engagement at that time prior to consideration by the Board and City Council. The recommendation for the director will be made by the MPHA Board and will need to be approved by the City Council. Residents of Public Housing will be surveyed in the weeks ahead and I am seeking feedback about what qualities people think are most important for the next Executive Director to possess. For more information and to share the opportunity with people who think might be well qualified visit <https://cohentaylor.com/position-profile/mpha-ed/>

Department Head Nominations. At the end of this year most of the regular charter departments heads' (excluding the Police Chief) terms will end and they will be up for consideration. So far, the Mayor has brought forward the current directors of Community Planning and Economic Development (David Frank) and Public Works (Robin Hutcheson) for reappointment. Public hearings for each of them will likely occur in December or January. I am generally supportive of both reappointments.

New CPED Deputy Director. Susan Geller is the new Deputy Director of the Community Planning & Economic Development (CPED) Department. She worked most recently as chief operating officer at Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners, a human services nonprofit addressing suburban poverty in areas including housing and workforce development. Prior to that she worked in public k-12 and higher education, the corporate sector, and for small businesses.

New Head of Operations and Engagement in Regulatory Services. I am happy to welcome Saray Garnett-Hochuli to the Regulatory Services Department as the new Director of Operations and Engagement. Garnett-Hochuli is filling the position vacated when Kim Keller advanced to become director of the department. She spent the previous 20 years working in the Assessor's Office as an appraisal manager, and also currently serves as an executive board member at Neighborhood House in Saint Paul. She is also a founding co-chair of the Minneapolis Black Employee Network (MBEN) and an active member of the Women of Minneapolis Employee Network (WOMEN).

City Attorney. Minneapolis City Attorney Susan Segal has resigned to accept an appointment to be a judge. I am encouraging the Mayor to conduct a broad and extensive search and hope that the MN American Civil Liberties Union, Lawyers Guild, MN Legal Aide and others will be included in the search process so that they can help us find a new City Attorney who will fight not only to support the work of elected officials but for social, and economic justice, criminal justice reform and the protection of the rights for all the people of our City.

Semi-Truck Parking. I am continuing to work with staff and co-authors CM Cunningham and Jenkins on an ordinance amendment to restrict the parking of large commercial vehicles on streets in Minneapolis. This has been referred to the Transportation and Public Works Committee but as been delayed to provide more time to inform truck drivers, especially the independent drivers. The current timeline we are aiming for has set a semi-truck driver engagement event on Monday, **January 6**, the public hearing on **April 8**, with an effective date of **May 1** all in 2020.

West Bank's Parking Lot A. The City has released a Request for Proposals for the redevelopment of the surface parking lot on 4th St. across from the Mixed Blood Theater and Riverside Plaza, known as Lot A, which is owned by the City, and Lot A1, which is owned by Hennepin County. The RFP seeks to create an Africa Village cultural area and public market, which will provide both shopping and economic development opportunities for rising entrepreneurs. The development may also include affordable housing and public/community space, and parking. Proposals are due by **Friday, January 10, 2020**. I am glad that the RFP includes several neighborhood-recommended criteria. The RFP and more details can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/LotA>.

GreatBatch Medical. I was informed last month that The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has been conducting air monitoring around Greatbatch Medical facilities in Southeast Minneapolis and found elevated levels of TCE detected around the GreatBatch medical facility. It is my understanding that Pollution Control Agency and GreatBatch medical have determined a path forward for removing TCE from the facility entirely, which is a significant improvement for the environment in Southeast Como.

Sale of Murphy's Warehouse. The University is considering selling the property they purchased in 2015 known as Murphy Warehouse 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. A expect a final decision on this by the Board of Regents in the next month or two.

Bessemer Apartments Tax Increment Financing. The City Council has given final approval to the Bessemer Apartments Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan that can be reviewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/public/index.htm>. 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.

Dorman Area Resurfacing. The City has identified the Dorman Avenue Area near West River Parkway to Brackett Park for street resurfacing next year. You can find more about resurfacing projects at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/futureprojects/WCMSP-199949>

El Nuevo Rodeo License Conditions. Following a settlement conference with licensing staff, police and city attorney staff, the City Council approved new License Conditions for El Nuevo Rodeo Nightclub, at 2709 ELake St. This will allow the licensee to retain their On-Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales. I hope that these 21 conditions, that can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2019-01240>, will help prevent complaints and contribute to the safe and peaceful operations at this business into the future.

Minnehaha Commons Open House. I am delighted to see that Minnehaha Commons has opened and will be having an open house on **December 10** from 4 to 6pm. This new apartment building in Longfellow, that is owned by Alliance Housing will have services provided by Touchstone Mental Health, will be home to 44 elders who have experienced homelessness.

Trinity Apartment rehab. I met recently with representatives from the Trinity Apartments at 2800 East 31st to discuss their plans to preserve their existing affordable housing in Longfellow. I am very supportive of their applications to us tax credits and tax-exempt bonds to help finance improvements to their property.

Vacant House on 34th Avenue. I am convening a community meeting at Bracket Park on **December 16** from 6:30-8pm for a community meeting to discuss the vacant house at 2800 34th Ave. So. Staff from both the Housing Inspections and Police Department to be there to listen and answer questions.

Arthur-Williams Walkway. The City has found the funding, approved the design and hired a contractor to rehabilitate the Arthur-Williams pedestrian walkway. Our hope is to have work started and the walkway safely opened this winter with additional work to completed in the spring.

2800 University Avenue. In response to the application from Meredith Barnhart, the Council has approved the rezoning of this property from High Density Office Residential to Community Activity Center (C3A) to allow for a new 8 story, 112 room hotel to be constructed.

Residence Inn. The developer of the hotel project for the Tom's Drugstore site has submitted materials for discussion to the Planning Commission's Committee of the Whole. The developers are proposing to build a 5-story Marriott Extended Stay Hotel at the corner of University Avenue SE and Southeast Bedford Street. To do so they are applying to change the zoning of two parcels to C3-A and for a variance to the height of the building to go from the C3-A allowed 4 stories or 56' height to and 61' with an elevator and stair tower approximately 4'-6" above the typical parapet and a decorative pergola on the University Avenue side 8'-6" above the typical parapet. I look forward to hearing more about this project, and the reactions from the community and Planning Commissioners.

Brickhouse Lofts. The Planning Commission has approved the modification to the plans for this project located at 150 26th Ave SE, to remove the 136 proposed dwelling units from the existing industrial building, and add 62,303 square feet of office space. You can find more information at

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-221292.pdf>

Sale of Shriner's Hospital. The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has given final approval of the purchase of the Shriner's Hospital on East River Road. The University is intending to use the facility as a center for pediatric brain research.

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 Simpls at 712 Washington Ave S, and

Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.

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