

## Second Ward March 2017 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)

**State Grab to Take Away Local Control.** There appear to be an unprecedented number of bills this year at the state legislature that interfere in local control, and that would affect every city in Minnesota. If these bills (or some of them) would pass, this would be a major change in the fundamental and historic relationship between local (city and county) and state government, allowing important decisions traditionally made by cities to be controlled at the state level, where residents of those localities will almost certainly have less opportunity to participate in those decisions and less influence. Learn more at

<https://www.lmc.org/page/1/LocalAuthorityToolkit.jsp> and consider contacting your state legislators and the Governor about your opposition to attempts to interfere in local control

**State Pre-emption of Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance.** The State legislature is moving forward with legislation that would take away the rights of cities to implement any type of carry-out bag ban and completely negate all the work we did, in the face of fierce industry lobbying, to pass our popular Minneapolis Bring Your Own Bag ordinance that is set to go into effect on June 1st. The pre-emption is now part the larger Senate Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Budget Bill, S.F. 723, that that contains a number of very disturbing provisions that you can read about here <https://www.mepartnership.org/letter-to-senators-on-environment-omnibus-bill-s-f-723/> in a letter from the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. The partnership opposes this legislation, along with many others. Even if passed by the legislature, it could still be stopped if vetoed by the Governor. If you support Minneapolis' ordinance, or just the principal of allowing local jurisdictions to have the authority to regulate and manage such things, please call the Governor at (651) 201-3400, and your representatives (<http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>) to let them know you oppose this bill.

[http://media.wix.com/ugd/8468e6\\_45687b4963974591933c7f0b084f412e.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/8468e6_45687b4963974591933c7f0b084f412e.pdf)

**Spring Street Sweep Alert.** From **April 11 to May 5**, sweeping crews will be cleaning our streets. Make sure to follow street sweeping parking rules or you may have your car ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their streets will be swept the next day. You can find out when the crews will be in your neighborhood (on or after April 7), if you go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping) and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup." The weekend before that week, you can revisit the website to find out which day of the week your street is scheduled.

**Department of Justice Review of Jamar Clark Protests.** On March 20 the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services released its after-action assessment of

the City response to the demonstrations at the 4<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct in late 2015 following the police shooting death of Jamar Clark. The Mayor requested the independent review in February of 2016. The report, titled “Maintaining First Amendment Rights and Public Safety in North Minneapolis,” include findings and recommendations that focus on leadership, communication, use of force, training, equipment, officer safety, and community engagement. Many recommendations, aimed primarily at the Police and Mayor, are worth following up on. I wish there was more in the report about the critical role community members played in maintaining peace and preventing property damage and violence by providing a peaceful and supportive gathering place for people. The report also left out many of the efforts and challenges faced by the City Council during that time as we struggled to stay informed, work together and be helpful while also respecting our different strengths, styles and approaches. You can find the full report here <https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-w0836-pub.pdf>

**Housing Choice Voucher Antidiscrimination Ordinance.** The Council has unanimously passed an ordinance amendment that prohibits discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders, putting them on equal footing with other people seeking rental housing in Minneapolis. The Council action also includes the creation of an incentive fund for landlords serving Section 8 voucher holders, and a series of staff directives to support needed improvements to the Section 8 program procedures. The ordinance, which you can learn more about at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/pscrem/WCMSP-196000>, will take effect May 1, 2018 and be enforced by the City’s Civil Rights Department.

**Occupational Concerns at Adult Entertainment Venues.** In March the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee received two disturbing reports about conditions in establishments with adult entertainment licenses. Following complaints about the cleanliness at some of the establishments, the Health Department inspected each of the 17 adult entertainment licensed businesses in the city. They identified and tested “stains of concern” at 14 establishments and confirmed the presence of potentially infectious material in 11 establishments and ordered them to be cleaned up. Two weeks later, the committee received a very informative follow-up presentation by Dr. Lauren Martin, with the University of Minnesota, about working conditions in these establishments. The report surfaced several concerns at these establishments, including sexual assault, lack of training and health standards, and expectations by customers that they are paying for sex. The report offered recommendations for further action by the City Council. This month I will be introducing ordinance amendments to try to put these recommendations into effect with my colleague Linea Palmisano. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmSP-196389.pdf>

**Sanctuary City Task Force.** I am happy to report that the City’s Sanctuary City Task Force began working in March, based on Council action taken in February. The Task Force is a multi-departmental team charged to make recommendations that will strengthen city policies, programs, and resources to better protect and defend undocumented immigrant families from unfair deportation. To learn more visit

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-196524.pdf>

**Federal Budget Impacts.** In March, President Trump released an outline of his 2018 budget proposal that would cut billions of dollars from most government agencies to pay for large increases in military and homeland security spending. Not only does this reveal deeply misguided priorities, in my opinion, but would also result in direct impacts to the city through cuts to Community Services Block Grants, transportation grants, and Federal Emergency Management Agency grants.

**City Opposes Weakening State Gun Laws.** The Council, with my support, is likely to amend our 2017 State Legislative Policy Positions in April to clearly oppose new, dangerous legislation that would weaken state gun laws and undermine gun violence prevention efforts. These include “permitless carry” legislation allowing people to carry concealed, loaded guns in public without a permit or safety training; and “stand your ground” legislation, that would expand the circumstances in which people are allowed to use deadly force, eliminates the duty to deescalate, and creates legal hurdles that make it harder to hold shooters accountable.

**Domestic Violence Victim Services.** Following up on a budget amendment approved in December, the Council has approved contracting with three groups to provide additional services for victims of domestic violence: Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (\$50,000), the Domestic Abuse Project (\$50,000) and the Bridge for Youth (\$50,000).

**Sex Trafficking Victim Services.** The Council has also approved contracting with the Family Partnership and The Link for \$25,000 each to provide services for victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

**City Comprehensive Plan Goals.** The Council will consider 13 overarching goals to guide the new comprehensive plan in April brought forward by planning staff in March. If you are interested please consider reviewing the draft goals that cover issues like economic, housing, and health disparities; growth; housing; the physical environment; creative, cultural, and natural amenities; employment, retail services, healthy food, parks, transportation; reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; healthy air, clean water, a vibrant ecosystem and more. You can find the full list at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-195454>. I will likely support these draft goals believe they capture the most important objectives for the city and are consistent with my 7 “Goals and Priorities for 2018 and Beyond” (<http://secondward.blogspot.com/2017/03/goals-priorities-for-2018-and-beyond.html>) I also, course, welcome your feedback am open to improving them.

**Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment Pay Increase.** The Zoning and Planning Committee is recommending that the City ordinances be amended to increase from \$35 to \$50 the per-meeting stipend paid to the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment members. The Heritage Preservation Commission would see the same increase. I am supportive of this, but also feel that we need a clearer and more comprehensive policy guiding which of our boards, commissions and advisory groups are compensated and by how much.

**Dates for Open Streets.** Open Streets are events that temporarily close a street to motorized traffic and open it up for general use by the public. The events are free and go from 11:00am to 5:00pm. The 2017 Open Streets dates in or near the Second Ward are East Lake/Minnehaha on Sunday, **July 23rd**; and Franklin Ave on Sunday, **August 27th**. Learn more at <http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/>

**Public Consumption of Alcohol in the Downtown East Park.** The Council has set a public hearing for April 18, at 1:30 p.m. on passage of ordinance amendment that would allow consumption of alcoholic beverages in public in the city owned park near the professional downtown east football stadium.

**Affordable Housing Preservation Fund.** In April the City Council will consider approving the Minneapolis Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund to help people preserve NOAH rental property in Minneapolis that is at risk of increased rents in order to protect low-income tenants occupying such housing that are at risk of involuntary displacement. Requirements include having 75% or more units with rents affordable to households at 80% AMI or less. Owners must accept Housing Choice Vouchers, lease-compliant residents cannot be involuntarily displaced (no lease terminations without cause) and rent increases for existing tenants will be limited based on the goal of non-displacement of low-income households to a maximum of 5% per year for two years after acquisition. For a the complete proposed guidelines and more information visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-196303>

**Short-term Food Permits.** There will be a public hearing on April 17 at 1:30 pm before the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee on the ordinance amendment to the Food Code that I am co-authoring with Council Member Palmisano streamlining our short-term and seasonal short-term food permits and public market and municipal market regulations.

**Hennepin Avenue Safety Plan.** Downtown stakeholders released a Minneapolis Partnership to Create a Safe and Inviting Hennepin Avenue Spring/Summer 2017 plan in March that focuses on addressing concerns during daytime hours. It encompasses four key categories: outreach, activation, legislative solutions and law enforcement. The plan comes as the crime rate downtown is down, including violent crime, but concerns about livability issues, such as public intoxication, catcalling and other behaviors have increased along Hennepin Avenue. Highlights of the plan include additional outreach workers reaching out to people experiencing homelessness, young people, and individuals engaging in problematic behaviors, and an activation plan for Hennepin Avenue from Third to 10th Streets that includes the popular “Pianos on Parade” program. The full plan is available here: [www.scribd.com/document/343547806/Downtown-Spring-Summer-2017-Plan](http://www.scribd.com/document/343547806/Downtown-Spring-Summer-2017-Plan).

**Outdoor Recreational Fires.** With the warmer weather concerns about recreational fires often reach our office. Please remember that outdoor fires are only permitted between 9 am and 10 pm.; fires must be less than three feet in diameter and two feet high; fires are prohibited when

winds exceed 10 mph and when Minneapolis is under an air pollution advisory or alert (sign up for air quality alerts at <http://mn.enviroflash.info>); burn only untreated, unpainted, dry wood; fires must be 25 feet away from a structure or combustible material and in a fire ring or pit with edges more than six inches high; fires must be constantly attended by someone 18 years or older and completely out before being abandoned. Illegal open burning or recreational fires could result in fines that start at \$200. You may wish to discuss recreational fires with your nearby neighbors. Some people suffer serious breathing difficulties as a result of wood smoke.

**Nominations open for 27th annual Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Awards.** Preserve Minneapolis, AIA Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission are seeking submissions for award nominations to recognize projects, individuals and organizations that celebrate the heritage and historic character of Minneapolis. To nominate a building project, individual and/or community organization, complete the online nomination form by 4 p.m. Friday, April 21. Nominees may self-nominate. To learn more visit: <https://www.aia-mn.org/about/chapters/aia-minneapolis/minneapolis-events/hpc-award/>

**Youth Violence Prevention Week.** This year, **April 2-9** is national Youth Violence Prevention Week. Several activities and events that week will focus on the issue of youth violence and identify strategies to combat this public health epidemic. Some events include: Theater performance of "Wait" and workshop, 3-5 p.m. Monday, April 3, All Nations Church, 1515 E. 23rd St.; "Art is My Weapon: Creatively Addressing Gun Violence" 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N.; Girls Symposium 12-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, North Commons, 1801 N. James Ave.; Open house/workout class, 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, Circle of Discipline, 1201 E. Lake St.; Bridges to Manhood Conference, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, 1501 Hennepin Ave.; and Peace march and concert, Noon-4 p.m. Friday, April 7, March from North Commons Park to Franklin Middle School for concert; Screening of *Moonlight* (and pizza), 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8, 771 Raymond Ave.; Three-on-three basketball tournament, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, April 9, Farview Park, 621 N. 29th Ave.; and Hip Hop for Hope, 5-9 p.m. Sunday, April 9, Asian Media Access Dance Studio, 2418 Plymouth Ave. N. Find updated information at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/youth/yvp/preventionweek>

**What Works Cities.** Minneapolis has been selected as one of 10 other cities to join a Bloomberg Philanthropies' *What Works Cities* initiative. Minneapolis joins Augusta, Georgia; Corona, California; Gilbert, Arizona; Indianapolis; Lewisville, Texas; Miami; Orlando, Florida; Tyler, Texas; and Washington D.C. in committing to using data and evidence better to improve services and inform local decision-making and engage residents. We will use the resources provided to refine and strengthen our Results Minneapolis program and improving contracting and procurement strategies.

**Minneapolis Health Department celebrates 150 years.** The Minneapolis Health Department celebrates its sesquicentennial this year with a public ceremony Wednesday, **April 12**, in the City Hall Rotunda 350 S. Fifth St. at 11:30am. The event features a reception; a history exhibit with Health Department artifacts, annual reports and photos; guest speakers; and a presentation of certificates of recognition to long-time department partners.

**New Resources for Homeownership.** Minneapolis is launching new housing initiatives with a new name: the Minneapolis Buy-Build-Rehab program. Move-in-ready homes available for purchase through City of Minneapolis programs will be posted at [www.minneapolisishomes.org](http://www.minneapolisishomes.org). The new program includes financing for homebuyers to purchase City-owned vacant lots to build their own home. Up to \$20,000 is available per household with an additional \$5,000 available to City of Minneapolis first responders (police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians) and Minneapolis Public School teachers. It also offers up to \$5,000 per household for homebuyers to purchase a City-owned vacant building for the purpose of rehabilitating as their own home; builders or general contractors that partner with a homeowner are also eligible to apply. You can find out how the Minneapolis Buy-Build-Rehab program can help you buy a move-in ready home, build a home on a City-owned vacant lot, or rehab a City-owned vacant home at 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 28th St., [www.facebook.com/events/1656824394625630/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1656824394625630/)

**Worn Wear Tour Fix-it.** There will be a Worn Wear Tour fix it is an event that promotes upcycling and reuse of clothing and materials **10 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 5**, University of Minnesota Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. SE. There will be opportunities to repair and upcycle old clothing, fix damaged electronics, and other activities centered on sustainability and reuse. The University of Minnesota Worn Wear Tour is free and open to the public. Learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion/WCMS1P-133562> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/155998558194191/>.

**County Reuse Website.** Hennepin County has developed a promising new “Choose to Reuse” website for easy ways to keep usable stuff out of the trash and find quality items without buying new. Check it out at <http://www.hennepin.us/choose-to-reuse>.

**Fire Department Cadet Positions.** The Fire Department is opening applications April 17. Candidates must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver’s license and be 18 or older. Find more information <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/fire/index.htm>. You can apply for a cadet position April 17-28 at [www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs).

**Yard Waste Pick Up.** City crews will begin picking up leaves, brush and other yard trimmings beginning April 10. The debris must be in compostable bags or unbagged in a reusable container at least 26 inches high with sturdy handles. Set prepared yard waste at your alley or curb next to your garbage cart by 6 a.m. on garbage day. The bag or container of the waste should be less than 40 pounds, brush and branches should be less than three feet long, less than three inches in diameter and bundled with string or twine (no wire or tape). It’s against the law and bad for our lakes, creeks and river to rake leaves into the street.

**Skyway Senior Center Closes.** I am sorry to report that, after providing services to seniors downtown for 16 years, the Skyway Senior Center has closed permanently. The Center has always been supported by the Health Department but externally funded. At the end of 2015, UCare was unable to continue its sponsorship of the Skyway Senior Center. Multiple attempts were made to secure funding throughout 2016 and into 2017 without success. My thanks goes to Patty Bowler for her work supporting the Center, to Center Coordinator Sara Goodnough

who provided outstanding leadership to the center and all the help she offered to Center visitors, to the many volunteers who worked at the Center and to the Friends of the Skyway Senior Center who have provided needed funding over the years. People can find a list of community resources here, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/seniors/Resources>, for information about other senior centers, transportation, housing, health and wellness, and food programs.

**City-owned Lots Available for Gardens.** There are 40 City-owned lots available for community and market gardens this spring. People can apply through **April 14** for priority consideration to lease a lot. If you are interested, visit the Minneapolis Garden Lease Program webpage here [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-170166?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-170166?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) to view the updated map of available parcels, find information about the application process and complete the garden request form.

**Resilient Yard Workshops.** Learn how your yard can adapt to and even help mitigate threats posed by extreme weather events from Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb landscape designers and U of M Extension Master Gardeners from Hennepin County by attending a workshop **April 18** at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church; **April 27** at Audubon Park; **May 9** at Redeemer Lutheran Church (free); **May 13** at North Regional Library (free); or **June 10** at Lake Nokomis For more info and to register, go to [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) or call 651-699-2426.

**Peavey Plaza project.** The team working on renovating Peavey Plaza on the Nicollet Mall is beginning work to improve the fountains and reflecting basin, concrete repairs, utility upgrades and making the plaza accessible to people with disabilities. The goal is to complete construction by the end of 2018. A stakeholder progress meeting will be held in Orchestra Hall's Green Room 4-5 p.m. April 19. For more information about the Peavey Plaza project, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/peaveyplaza](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/peaveyplaza).

**Property Tax Relief.** Minneapolis property owners and renters could save money with state tax relief programs. Call 311 if you are a homeowner with a household income less than \$108,660; blind homeowner; disabled homeowner; disabled veteran homeowner (70 percent or more disabled); surviving spouse or primary caregiver of a disabled veteran (70 percent or more permanently disabled); surviving spouse of a service member who died while on active duty; homeowner 65 or older, household income \$60,000 or less, owned and lived in the property 15 years or longer, no state or federal tax liens on property, debt cannot exceed 75 percent of assessor's value; homeowner with a property tax increase at least 12 percent (\$100 or more) from the previous year. If you are a renter with 2016 household income less than \$58,880 and an agent will help you find out if you qualify for property tax relief.

**Greek House Ordinance.** I have heard some concerns from southeast residents about Council Member Frey's proposed Fraternity and Sorority ordinance changes. I have reached out to staff to ask questions about the ordinance as currently proposed, and have heard three important points. First, staff are not proposing to change the zoning districts in which Fraternities and Sororities are allowed. Currently they are a conditional use in the R4, R5, R6 districts and the

OR2 & OR3 districts. Second, they still have some work to do to figure out how to measure a condition that allows them within ½ mile from campus. Right now they are considering identifying a particular point or intersection on the U of M campus, located near 15<sup>th</sup> and University Ave and so most of Prospect Park and SE Como would not be included in the area. And third, staff are proposing to remove the occupancy limit, which would place fraternities and sororities under the Housing maintenance code, which restricts the number of people you can house per bedroom based on square footage. I will be tracking this ordinance proposal closely, and will do my best to keep people in southeast informed as it moves forward.

**Prospect North Project Grants.** The Council has authorized applications to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development [DEED] Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant Program and to the Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account [TBRA] Grant Program for two Ward 2 projects, both located in the Prospect North area. The first is to support the new climbing facility, that Midwest Climbing LLC will be building located at 518 Malcolm Ave SE, 504 29th Ave SE and includes requests for \$180,000 from DEED and \$270,000 from the Met Council to assist in the construction of a 20,000 square foot indoor climbing facility. The total projected development cost is \$10,775,000. The second is for Oppidan's Prospect Park Senior Housing project located at 3033 University Ave SE, 3000 and 3024 4th St SE and includes a request from DEED for \$100,000 and the Met Council for \$125,000. This will help facilitate the construction of multiple levels of new senior housing care, including independent, assisted living and memory care units. A six-story independent living facility will be constructed to the north and include approximately 142 units. A 12-story assisted living and memory care facility will be constructed to the east and southeast and include approximately 143 units/beds. A small commercial space will be constructed to house the existing daycare operations on the site. The total projected development cost is \$75,000,000.

**Sally's Saloon.** Owners of Sally's Saloon in Stadium village participated a formal review of their liquor license following several incidents in 2016 that involved University of Minnesota Police and intoxicated underage adults in possession of fake identification cards outside their bar. As a result the owners of Sally's Saloon have agreed to install surveillance cameras on all entrance and exit doors, to acquire and employ the use of identification scanners approved by the Minneapolis Police Department to check I.D. cards for authenticity, and to retain an acceptable alcohol server training company and give alcohol training to all staff members every six months. They will also hire a minimum of two off-duty uniformed Minneapolis Officers for additional security on Friday, and Saturday nights from 10:00 p.m. until close time, and will keep have an approved manager on site at all times.

**1721 Como Ave SE.** Greg Jansma is moving forward with plans to redevelop the vacant corner property at 18<sup>th</sup> and Como Avenue in Southeast Como. His plan is to construct a 3 story mixed use building with apartments on the top two floors and commercial space on the first floor. He is applying for variances to reduce setbacks, to narrow the drive aisle and to reduce the number of off street parking required for the retail from 4 to 1.

**WBCDC Riverside Homes Preservation Meeting.** The West Bank Community Development Corporation is working to secure funds to renovate and preserve 191 units, in 74 different

buildings, in its Riverside Homes project on the West Bank. The homes are in a variety of locations in the neighborhood, in Ward 6 and Ward 2, including several near Riverside Park and all of the Riverbluff Townhomes in the northeast corner of the neighborhood. They are requesting a \$20 million tax exempt bond allocation, which would allow funders to use the investment to reduce their tax obligation. According to the proposal, work would be done on both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings and no residents would be displaced. There will be meeting Tuesday, April 18, from 6pm to 7 pm at the Cedar Commons at 2001 Riverside Avenue where WBCDC and Mutual Management staff will discuss the proposal.

**Tesoro Extended Hours.** There will be a public hearing following the Riverside Homes discussion at 7 pm on **April 18** at the Cedar Commons (2001 Riverside Ave) to discuss the request from the owners of the gas station and convenience store at 2517 Riverside Avenue to extend their hours. They currently close at 11 pm and would like to change to be open until 12 midnight. You are invited to come and express your opinion there and to submit written comments to [Leanne.selander@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Leanne.selander@minneapolismn.gov).

**Blue Door Outdoor Seating.** James Brown of Brownsmith Restoration has applied for three variances to allow for an outdoor café at the Blue Door restaurant located at 1514 Como Avenue SE. At the March 30<sup>th</sup> Zoning Board of Adjustment City staff recommended that the board deny the 3 variances to 1) allow outdoor dining closer than 20 feet from the adjacent residential use, 2) to reduce the minimum parking requirement from 8 to 4 parking space, and, 3) to allow a ground floor patio exceeding 50 square feet and planters exceeding 3 feet in height in the required front yard along Como Ave. After seeing the staff recommendations the applicant requested and the Zoning Board of Adjustment voted not to decide on the matter then, but to continue it two cycles to their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. If it is allowed, they will likely request to stay open until 11 pm, but the city would need to approve those hours.

**Glendale Weatherization.** I was glad to learn that Sustainable Resource Center, Centerpoint and the MPHA are finally moving forward with plans to weatherize townhomes at the Glendale Townhomes. While this has taken much longer than I had hoped, I'm proud to have put SRC and MPHA together to have a conversation about weatherization. I'm hoping that this project will help improve the comfort for Glendale residents next winter, improve energy efficiency, and help indicate the willingness of MPHA to work with partners to improve Glendale residents' lives.

**Openings on Boards and Commissions.** A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this spring. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** I usually hold open "Office Hours" in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.  
First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;  
Third Thursdays at T Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE;  
Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 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>