

Second Ward July 2017 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

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Police Officer Killing. In July, our City suffered another heartbreaking tragedy when Justine Damond was shot and killed by a Minneapolis police officer. While the matter is currently under investigation, it is clear that this should have and could have been prevented. The Mayor and Council, as we should, are keenly focused on understanding why and how this happened and finding ways to make sure it is never repeated in the future. Many of us also put this in the context of the killings of other innocent people in and near our city, including Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, Terrance Franklin and others. This killing is complicated further because Justine was killed after calling 911 to report a crime in progress and because of the racial make-up of the officer and the victim. It is critical to our public safety system that people feel comfortable and safe calling 911. Because the officer is of East African descent the incident has resulted in a number of hateful, racist, islamophobic and dangerous reactions. I encourage people to read Council Member Warsame's message about this here <https://www.facebook.com/burhan.y.geeraare/posts/10210035144822872>. I thank Council Member Palmisano, who represents the people from the Fulton neighborhood where the killing occurred, for her very thoughtful and focused involvement in this tragedy. You can read some of her thoughts about it at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward13/issues/WCMSP-202228>. The City has also set up a webpage with all public information about the incident at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/records/frequent>. There will be a memorial for Justine at the Lake Harriet Band Shell on Friday, August 11 from 7 – 9:00pm.

Changes in Police Chief. In the wake of the killing of Justine Damond by a Minneapolis Police officer, Chief Janee Harteau has resigned, and the mayor has put forward Assistant Chief Medaria "Rondo" Arradondo to be the next Police Chief. I understand that a change in leadership for the Minneapolis Police Department is a logical step to take at this time, but feel that this alone is insufficient. As she transitions away from her role as Police Chief, I thank Janee Harteau for her years of service to the people of Minneapolis, and the real and important progress that has been made towards transforming our police department on her watch. Her accomplishments, including de-escalation and implicit bias training for all officers and changes to the use of force policy aimed at reducing police violence, are real, valuable, and notable. I have worked with Arradondo and supported his nomination at the Executive Committee on August 1 to be appointed to complete the remaining term that is set to end January of 2019. There will be a Public Hearing about this appointment at the Public Safety Committee meeting on August 9th at 1:30pm.

Police Reform. This most recent shooting reopens pain and distrust in our community in a police force that just two years ago experienced one of its officers shooting and killing Jamar Clark. Justine should not have been killed, just as Jamar Clark, Terrance Franklin, Philando

Castile and so many others should not have been killed. The disconnect between the progress we have made under Chief Harteau's leadership and how far we want to go underscores the fact that the transformation that is required is larger than any one leader. It requires broad-based, systemic change. Priority reforms we should move forward on now include:

- Rebuilding an independent civilian oversight board, including changing state law and city policy so the board has subpoena power for investigations and can discipline police misconduct.
- Amending the Minneapolis City Charter to ensure that accountability for the police department is shared by the City Council to put the police chief on equal footing with other department heads and ensure every elected official in Minneapolis is engaged in and accountable for reform.
- Establishing a city Community Task Force on Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform, loosely modeled off of the President's Task Force for 21st Century Policing, covering Policy & Oversight, Procedural Justice & Transparency, Training & Education, and Technology with a primary focus on eliminating the racial disparities within the criminal justice system, minimizing collateral consequences for those charged or convicted of a crime, and reforming policies disproportionately affecting poor people of color.

Our work on police practices must be grounded in a critical understanding of race and racism in Minneapolis, and the present day consequences of our history. Minneapolis Police Department policies must be evaluated using a race equity lens.

Audit of Police Video Equipment Use. With my strong support, the Public Safety, Civil rights and Emergency Management Committee is recommending that the Department of Civil Rights and Internal Audit Department conduct an independent internal audit of the Police Department's squad car and body worn video recording equipment programs. The audit will evaluate compliance with applicable Minnesota Statutes, review training and equipment use and evaluate compliance with Minneapolis Police Department's policies and procedures.

Body Cameras. The Mayor and Police department have released an updated and strengthened police body camera policy. The new policy, along with a version of the old policy that shows what has changed, can be found at www.insidempd.com/bwcpolicychange.

Tobacco Sales Ordinance. Following the lengthy public hearing on July 24 (that you can read about at <https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/817585331737161>), the Health Environment and Community Engagement will meet on August 2 to discuss and vote on an amendment to the tobacco sales ordinance I have coauthored with my colleague Lisa Bender. The new ordinance would remove the exemption for menthol, mint and wintergreen to our flavored tobacco ordinance that restricts the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult only tobacco shops. If approved all flavored tobacco would no longer be allowed to be sold at grocery, convenience or other stores.

Reliable Clean Energy Funding. The Clean Energy Partnership has taken a major action that sets us up for a significant increase in funding for fighting climate change at the local level. The idea, which came from the Partnership's Energy Vision Advisory Committee, is to raise our energy franchise fees and use the extra revenue to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy. If

we only raised the rates by half a percentage point, we could raise around \$3 million per year, on average. This would mean a monthly increase of around sixty cents a month (Or \$7.20 a year) on the average home's energy bill. Interestingly, even after this increase Minneapolis will have a lower franchise fee than many of our surrounding communities. We would also have a much lower franchise fee than we had several years ago, before we renewed our franchise fees. The proposal is to invest these new funds in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs targeted towards every type of energy user property including: 1-4 unit residential buildings, multifamily residential buildings, commercial buildings and industrial users. These programs would be on top of - and help us better leverage - the utilities' Conservation Improvement Programs. I believe that this funding is absolutely necessary to meeting our Climate Action Plan goals. We are not on track to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions at this time. We are not on track to energy efficiency improvements for 75% of dwelling units in our city. For there to be any hope of meeting those appropriately aggressive goals, we need this dedicated funding. In order for the Council to follow through in this recommendation we will need to amend our franchise fee ordinances and make will this issue part of this year's budget deliberations. Currently all of the revenue from the franchise fees just goes into our general fund. It is critically important to me, and I think many others, that this increase be set aside and targeted to meet our clean energy and climate action goals.

Animal Care and Control 2016 Report. The 2016 Animal Care and Control report is now available. In 2016, compared to 2015, there was a 40% increase in the number of animal adoptions. The shelter housed 4,196 animals with an 82% live release rate of all animal species including wildlife. The 18% remainder consisted of animals that could not be rehomed or returned to owners because they were deemed dangerous to public safety or had a severe untreatable medical condition. Still, 163 dogs and 221 cats were euthanized, but no animal was euthanized due to space, time or breed in 2016. You can find more details at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-201977>

EPA Climate Change Data. I am happy to report that the City has now been able to post the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's deleted climate data on the City's website. The webpage contains information on the basic science behind climate change, the ways weather is impacted from increased greenhouse gas emissions and actions the federal government has taken to reduce the impact. Major cities including Atlanta, Boston, Houston, San Francisco and Seattle have also posted the information. The website address is <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate-action-goals/epaclimate>.

Workforce Planning. The Council's Committee of the Whole has received an encouraging report on our efforts to diversify the City's workforce. Specifically, we're looking to reach goals of 41% employees of color and 45% female employees. I'm glad that the City is leading by example by setting these clear goals and reporting on our progress and the ongoing challenges to reaching them. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-201834>.

New CPED Director. Craig Taylor has resigned as the Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development (or CPED) department. The mayor has appointed the head Economic

Development, David Frank, to be the new interim CPED Director. I have appreciated working with David for the past few years, and welcome him to this new role.

New Director of Long Range Planning. Heather Worthington has been hired as the new Director of Long Range Planning for the department of Community Planning and Economic Development. She will join the department in September. She has over 20 years of government leadership and management experience to the City including, since 2010, as the Deputy County Manager for Economic Growth and Community Investment for Ramsey County. Prior to that, she served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Edina, City Administrator of Falcon Heights and a Community Organizer for the St. Anthony Park Community Council. As Director of Long Range Planning, Worthington will be responsible for leading the staff team who is updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. She will also oversee the work related to small area plans, thematic plans, the Art in Public Places program and other strategic planning initiatives. The CPED Long Range Planning team includes a staff of approximately 15.

Shared Mobility Action Plan. The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has received a very informative presentation on a new Shared Mobility Action Plan. This plan was created by the Shared Use Mobility Center (SUMC), a Chicago-based non-profit whose mission is to foster collaboration in shared mobility (including bikesharing, carsharing, ridesharing and more), in collaboration with staff from the City and other area transportation agencies and service providers. I am excited by the goals of this plan, which include taking 20,000 cars off the road in Minneapolis and St. Paul in the next five years (a 5% reduction) and 50,000 cars off the road in the metro area in the next ten. It also calls for 30,000 new transit riders, 600 new vehicles in car-sharing systems, 800 new bike-sharing bikes, and 1,000 new daily vanpool riders. The plan also calls for cities to set targets for representative use of these programs, ensure access to jobs, and set targets for geographic equity. You can read more here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-201577.pdf>.

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. I am moving forward with an effort to amend the city carryout bag ordinance so that a fee will be required for plastic as well as paper carry out bags so that it fits within the constraints imposed by the Governor and state legislative majority. It may also allow certified compostable plastic bags to be disturbed without a fee. A final draft of the proposed amendments will be available soon and the public hearing has been set for August 7th at 1:30 pm.

Organics Recycling Data. In July we learned some details about how our first year of our curbside organics collection program went. More than 45,000 households, roughly 42% of Solid Waste and Recycling customers, have signed up to participate in the program and diverted almost 4,000 tons of organics from the trash for composting. That's 175 pounds of organics per household. We also learned that less than 1 percent of what residents are placing in carts is not acceptable material and that the most common contaminants were plastic-lined paper products. This includes decorative paper plates, boxes from frozen pizza and other frozen foods, take and bake pizza trays, paper ice cream tubs, milk cartons, non-compostable to-go containers and coffee cups, butcher paper and butter wraps. Clearly we need more people to

participate and for those who are participating to get more of their organic materials in their green bins. If you are not signed up please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/organics to sign up soon. There is no extra cost, and residents who participate in the program may be able to reduce the size of their garbage carts and save money on their City of Minneapolis utility bills.

Participatory Budgeting. Participatory Budgeting. After conducting research this winter and spring, the Finance staff will be reporting back to the Ways and Means committee on August 28 on possible options for implementing participatory budgeting in Minneapolis. I suspect that they will be recommending a pilot program for next year and that the participatory process be carefully designed with extensive community involvement.

Upholding Sanctuary Policies. I was proud to co-sign a letter with over 50 local elected officials from throughout the country to support to defend sanctuary policies led by Local Progress, a national network of hundreds of legislators from cities, counties, and school boards. You can read the letter at <http://localprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Sanctuary-City-Open-Letter-Final.pdf>

Live Theater. The Council has approved, with my support, an ordinance amendment that will now allow live theaters to operate in light and medium industrial zoned properties. Theater groups have expressed interest in the potential of reusing older industrial factory and warehouse buildings for live theater performances, but until now this was only permitted in industrial property that was in a designated Industrial Living Overlay district.

Route Ideas for 2018 Open Streets. The City of Minneapolis and the City's Open Streets event organizer, Our Streets Minneapolis, are seeking route ideas for the 2018 Open Streets season. Anybody can submit an idea. Organizations can also share their interest in being a local route host. Applications are due Sept. 21, 2017. For more information and to submit an idea for a 2018 route, visit the [Open Streets website](#).

10th Anniversary of Bridge Collapse. August 1st marks 10th anniversary of the I-35W Bridge collapse. Thirteen people lost their lives and 145 were injured when the bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River on this date in 2007. To commemorate that, there is a Remembrance Garden near Gold Medal Park honors the bridge collapse victims and survivors and this year A piece of the bridge will be installed permanently outside of the City's Emergency Operations Training Facility. Minneapolis firefighters requested a piece of the bridge wreckage as a reminder of that day. The Minnesota Historical Society is commemorating the 10th anniversary of the bridge collapse by displaying items related to the tragedy including a gusset plate from the bridge at the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis through August 30th. The emergency exit door of a school bus on the bridge at the time of the collapse is also currently on display at the Minnesota History Center in Saint Paul. This is an important part of our history that is a bold reminder to me of the importance of maintaining and investing in our public infrastructure. The colors of the new I-35W Bridge will also go dark the evening of Aug. 1 to mark the anniversary.

Capital Investment Recommendations. The Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee has forwarded its recommendations to the Mayor and Council that includes a review of requests from the (City Hall) Building Commission, the Park and Recreation Board and various City departments. Over 88% of this over \$900 million 5 year budget goes to Public Works projects. That includes street paving, sidewalks, bridges, traffic control, street lighting, bike-ped projects, sewers, and drinking water. The remaining funds go to parks (6.93%) public grounds and facilities (3.75%) the Municipal Building Commission (0.8%) and public art (0.41%). One thing that was not recommended for funding that I would still like to see included in the Mayor's proposed budget is funding for the Prospect Park Trail that would potentially connect Franklin Ave Trail to the University over I94 to the east. You can find the 2017 CLIC report and recommendations at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/reports/WCMS1Q-068780>.

Temporary Elections Positions. The City has posted announcements for seasonal/temporary job openings with Elections & Voter Services; see the City job webpage at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/jobs/opp/WCMS1Q-074686>

2017 Election Website. The City has an elections-focused website: vote.minneapolismn.gov. This website is a central place to go for accurate, timely information about this year's election and ranked-choice voting. The fresh, intuitive design is focused on the user, with content on the site arranged according to specific audiences including voters, candidates, volunteers and students.

Universal Pre-K. Following up on a staff direction from last December, on August 2 the Health Department will share the findings of the City's Youth Cabinet regarding the feasibility of a Universal Pre-K program. It appears that there is a great need for access to quality preschool school educational experience for Minneapolis youth, just to close the Gap between 3-4 year olds who already have quality care and those who need it could cost between \$29 and \$85 million. You can find the presentation here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-202501>.

New Warning Siren Locations. Minneapolis has seven new 45-foot high outdoor warning sirens in and around downtown to meet a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guideline that the sound of the sirens exceeds the ambient noise level by at least 10 decibels. These complement four existing sirens in and around downtown. The seven new sirens will bring 60 percent of the downtown area up to the FEMA guideline's level. This fall, another set of 15 smaller sirens on top of traffic signal poles will bring downtown up to 100 percent coverage.

Co-op Mall at 2600 Minnehaha. I am working with Council member Warsame to explore new uses for the city owned vacant commercial lot at 2600 Minnehaha Ave in Seward. The property has been for sale for over 10 years and the City has cleaned up the pollution to make it ready for development. In the weeks ahead we will be asking staff to do explore feasibility of marketing the site as a cooperatively owned retail mall with smaller commercial businesses that could also include some light manufacturing like a bakery. Based on the feasibility study staff may then be directed to issue a request for proposals for potential development later this summer or in early autumn. We will be very interested in sharing the study results and engaging the neighborhood in the development of the RFP and future discussion about this

idea.

Midwest Climbing Redevelopment. Minneapolis was approved for \$319,871 in cleanup funding for a 1.72-acre site on Malcolm Ave SE north of the University Transitway, which is contaminated with petroleum and other pollutants. Formerly used by an agricultural company for grain and oil storage, the site will be redeveloped into an 18,900-square-foot facility for indoor rock climbing. The project will create 13 jobs, retain two jobs and increase the tax base by \$86,166. Midwest Climbing LLC plans to construct an approximately 20,000 square foot destination indoor climbing facility with off-street parking.

Franklin Open Streets. Please join me Sunday, August 27, 11am to 5pm for Open streets on Franklin Ave from Portland Ave to 28th Ave. This is chance to celebrate our city, neighborhoods and local businesses as you bike, walk, or roll on our street closed to vehicle traffic and opened up to community. Learn more at <http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/franklin>

Hiawatha Academy. The Planning Commission has approved the plan, conditional use permit and variances for a soccer field and new school that is being planned to be built at the former Shasta building at 3530 E 28th Street. They plan to construct a new high school. The approved plans call for reusing close to half of the existing building, including the iconic entry on 36th Ave and 28th Street. The project has received formal support from the Longfellow Community Council, Seward Neighborhood Group and the Midtown Greenway Coalition. I am currently working with nearby neighbors to help resolve some remaining concerns. A group of neighbors met with school leadership in June and July. There will be follow up meetings, perhaps monthly, once construction starts in September. More information on the project can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-200787.pdf>

Wellington and the Rainbow Site. Plans are moving forward for the old Rainbow building to be redeveloped by Wellington Inc. to include new commercial uses on the west side and a charter school with a new entrance on the east, or 28th Ave, side. I am meeting in August with the development team to learn more details and I expect the developer to be meeting with the Longfellow Community Council soon to share plans and gather feedback.

4th Street Lofts. Harlem Irving Company has submitted an application to build a new apartment building at 2812 4th Street SE, one block to the north of University Ave SE, and a half-block from the north of the Prospect Park Light Rail Station. They are proposing a six-story (approximately 78-foot-tall) building with 163 dwelling units and 89 parking stalls. I am working to make sure that there is time for community input and feedback before any formal steps are taken by the Planning Commission or the City Council.

Bike Boulevards on 29th Ave and 24th St. Construction work on 29th Ave South and East 24th Street is underway in Seward. This includes bump outs at several streets and two traffic circles along 24th St E at 23rd Ave S and 25th Ave S. I am grateful that the Seward Neighborhood Group and nearby neighbors will be helping ensure that the circles will include plantings. For more details visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/saferoutes/WCMSP-184395>

Openings on Boards and Commissions. A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this summer. 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.

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