

## Second Ward October 2017 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

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**Vote.** Election Day for the City election is **November 7**. People can vote before Election Day at the Downtown Early Vote Center, at 217 S Third St. Monday –Friday from 8am - 4:30pm. Starting on October 23rd, the hours will be: 7am-6pm Monday-Friday; 9am-4pm Saturdays and noon-5pm Sundays. On Monday, November 6 the center will close at 5 pm. On Election Day, the 7<sup>th</sup>, the local precinct polling places will be open from 7am to 8pm. To find your polling place, call 311 or visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/WHERE-TO-VOTE>. If you live in Ward 2 it will be at one of the following places: for precinct 1 it will be at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 31st St E; 2 at Anne Sullivan School, 3100 28th St E; 3 at Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE; 4 at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 River Parkway E; 5 at Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE; 6 at St. Frances Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave SE; 7 at Augsburg College Christensen Center, 720 22nd Ave S; 8 – Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S; 9 at Augsburg College Oren Gateway Bldg, 610 22nd Ave S; 10 at Grace University Lutheran Church, 324 Harvard St SE; and 11 at Longfellow High School, 3017 E 31st St.

**Sample Ballots.** To better prepare for voting on Election Day you can get your sample ballot at: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot> . Enter your address and you will get an exact duplicate of your official ballot.

**“Dark Money” in City Election.** I am very disturbed by the recent large influx of independent expenditures into the 2017 City Council campaigns. According to local news sources, a group of wealthy individuals and organizations, operating under the name “Minneapolis Works!” that appears to include the members of the Downtown Council, the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Building Owners and Managers Association and the Minnesota Jobs Coalition, seem determined to muddy and to control the outcome of City Council campaigns in at least 7 City Council races. I denounce this effort to influence our election outside the normal and more transparent process of campaign contributions and volunteering, and call on all those involved to stop trying to “buy” elections in Minneapolis.

**Voter Guides and Information.** The City has sent a voter guide to every household in Minneapolis to help voters understand their rights, how they can register and vote, and what’s on the ballot. You may also want to check out a few of these websites for more information about races and candidates: <http://mplsvotes2017.com/>, <https://lwvmpls.org/>, <https://elections.wedgeline.com/>.

**2018 Budget.** Mayor Hodges delivered her budget address and full proposed 2018 budget on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Throughout October and November departments are presenting their proposed budgets to the Council. This will be followed by public hearings held at 6:05pm on

November 29th and December 6th. The Council has reserved December 1st as budget “markup” day when Council Member amendments will be presented and considered. Amendments may be made on the 6th as well before its final passage. A new website at [budget.minneapolismn.gov](http://budget.minneapolismn.gov) includes the full budget document, the Mayor's budget address, past budgets, the calendar of upcoming budget meetings and more. The proposed budget is consistent with the 2016 approved funding plan for City streets and neighborhood parks that provides for \$33 million each year for up to 20 years, totaling \$800 million to meet park and street needs. It also provides nearly \$6 million in environmental and energy investments; \$24 million in housing investments, a \$4 million investment in new strategies intended to help build community trust in police; and \$1.2 million to support voting rights.

**Property Taxes.** The Board of Estimate and Taxation approved the maximum property tax levy limit of 5.6% on September 27. If we approve this maximum it would bring the total overall amount of property taxes that the City will collect in 2018 to \$268,800,000 which represents about 19% of the 1.4 billion dollars we are budgeting to take in next year. Based, in large part, on the rising property values in our area as well as the levy increase, I anticipate that most Second ward property owners will see a modest increase in their property taxes.

**Budget Concerns.** So far while reviewing the budget I have identified a few things that concern me. First, I will be looking carefully at a new Downtown Asset Fund (see below). Second, I am concerned with the loss of a needed health inspections position. Third, I was hoping to see more than \$20,000 to help support senior services like the Healthy Senior organizations so effective at helping seniors stay health and stay in their homes in Southeast, Seward, Longfellow and elsewhere. Fourth, I was expecting to see continued funding for the new and successful Cooperative Technical Assistant Program (C-TAP) that provides education and assistance for cooperative ventures. Sixth, I wanted to see funding for the closed-captioning of all City meetings that are televised. I believe that every City televised broadcast of a meeting or event should be captioned in real time. I will be considering possible budget amendments to address these concerns.

**Downtown Asset Fund.** This budget creates a new Downtown Assets Fund, a special revenue fund, that if passed would clearly delineate the uses of sales and entertainment taxes. I am concerned about tying these funds up now without a more complete discussion about long term needs. These are also the sources of revenue that are obligated to pay off our debt for the Vikings Stadium starting in 2021, as well as a source of revenue that could potentially help pay for the neighborhood and community engagement services and activities that are currently being funding through a tax increment district that will be decertified in 2020. If approved, the new Downtown Assets Fund would provide \$30.5 million on-going to the General Fund; pay for Convention Center operations and debt service; fund Meet Minneapolis; pay for Target Center debt service associated with the new renovations and other expenses; provide \$4,400,000 for Peavey Plaza; and, spend \$750,000 on the Downtown East park by the football stadium. I am especially concerned about making a commitment to fund the downtown east stadium park in this way. I remain convinced that the costs of this park should be covered by the stadium users, by the nonprofit established to fund it or by revenue from the nearby parking ramp.

**Budget Priorities.** As we enter into the budget process I will be listening carefully to budget presentations to make sure, first, that we are providing funds to provide for our basic responsibilities and services for health, safety and maintaining our public infrastructure and property. Then, and within that, I will be supporting initiatives that: 1) prioritize all people's health and well-being, including the very young and the very old; 2) support a just and durable local economy; 3) fight climate change and promote a cleaner environment; 4) close racial and economic disparities; 5) fight discrimination and protect the rights of all members of our community including immigrants; 6) increase civic participation and build people's capacity to inform and influence their government; 7) improve community confidence and trust in our police; and, 8) guide and manage our growth and development so that it provides real community benefits, protects against displacement and gentrification and serves the present and future housing, educational, employment, recreational and cultural needs of our city. The following few items represent budget initiatives that I support and believe are consistent with these priorities.

**Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.** I was glad to see that the Mayor included funding for the creation of a new Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs in the budget. This is something I have been calling for since late last year and is accomplished through a transfer of funds. It will include an attorney and be within the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR).

**Franchise Fee for Clean Energy.** The Mayor's proposed budget includes an additional source of revenue through a 0.5 % increase in the City's natural gas and electricity franchise fees. This could bring in an estimated \$2 million and is consistent with the Clean Energy Partnership's call to raise additional resources aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, implementing more of our Climate Action Plan and paying for renewable energy efforts. The cost per month (which would vary depending on the amount of energy purchased) would be 57 cents for a residential customer, \$7.16 for a commercial customer and \$195 for an industrial customer. I plan to support this and the needed amendments to our city code of ordinances to make it possible.

**Civilian Crime Prevention Specialists.** The budget proposes funding eight new civilian Crime Prevention Specialists within the police department. These civilians would work with various segments of the community and develop more positive and trusting relations between police and community members. The Mayor also proposes adding one (1) additional sworn officer, and permanently funding two (2) sworn officers who were previously grant-funded – bringing the authorized strength to 878 sworn officers – continuing down a five-year path towards a full authorized strength of 901 sworn officers.

**Body Cameras.** The proposed budget would make 2018 the first year of a three-year plan that would provide all sworn police officers with body cameras. It provides funding for 100 additional cameras in each of the next three years on top of the 587 cameras already purchased or authorized for purchase.

**Mobile Health Services.** Within the Fire Department, the budget proposes funding four (4) new Mobile Healthcare Providers, and for a Mobile Emergency Medical Services vehicle. This is an idea that the Fire Chief has been exploring for a couple years and would allow the fire

department to respond more efficiently and effectively to medical emergencies. These Mobile Healthcare Providers will be specifically trained in providing basic life support and will be dispatched to match the appropriate emergency.

**Access to Public Information.** The proposed budget provides funds to improve transparency and our ability to share information and respond to requests for data. With the funds the City Clerk's office will implement a new data review and redaction system, and a centralized data practices request system.

**Public Safety Collaborative.** Building on the pilot efforts at Little Earth and West Broadway, the Mayor is proposing funding a second round of Collaborative Safety Strategies projects within the Neighborhood & Community Relations Department. A carefully designed community centered participatory budgeting process would determine how the funds would be spent focused on a portion of Lake Street.

**Vision Zero.** With my strong support, the Council has adopted a resolution that commits the City to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries because of crashes on City Streets by 2027, establishes a Vision Zero Task Force, and directs that Task Force to develop a Vision Zero action plan. I am very supportive of this effort, think that it is consistent with the efforts already started, including in our Complete Streets Plan, and hope that our work on this plan can start make our streets safer long before 2027. For more on the vision Zero network see <http://visionzeronetwork.org/>.

**Body Camera Audit.** In September the City received a disappointing report on police body cameras and learned that many officers have not been following the policy, although there have been recent improvements since the new Police Chief clarified expectations. When the audit report came to the Public Safety Committee meeting we approved directing the City Auditor's Office to work with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) to address outstanding issues that have been raised by the previous audits of the Body-Worn Camera program, reporting back on this progress by the end of February 2018. We also directed the Minneapolis Police Department to report quarterly and at the Nov. 29, 2017, Committee meeting with a response to the findings outlined Report. You can find the more information, including the full (although somewhat incomplete) report at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2017-01191>.

**County Jail Cooperative with ICE.** In September I received a disturbing letter from the Hennepin County Sheriff, Richard W. Stanek outlining the County Jails close cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division. It appears to confirm some of our worst fears about what has been happening at the jail and I believe it should give us cause to reconsider, renegotiate and potentially terminate the contract we, the City of Minneapolis, has with the County to serve as our jail. In is he states, "At the point of booking, Minnesota law requires that we ask each arrestee their "place of birth." Every inmate also is fingerprinted, the prints are sent to the BCA, which sends them to the FBI and then to the Department of Homeland Security and ICE. ... If an arrestee voluntarily discloses that they were foreign born, or a non-U.S. citizen, HCSO makes this information available to ICE, arranges a call to ICE, and offers the arrestee the option of speaking with an

immigration agent. ... We notify ICE when an inmate is released *only* when ICE previously has served a Request for Notification. In 2016, we received 267 "Requests for Notification" (for 0.85% of inmates) and ICE actually picked up 68 inmates after their release (0.2% of all inmates booked in the Hennepin County Jail). We do not decide which inmates ICE picks up, and ICE never reports back on the status or result of their immigration proceedings." You can find the full text from the letter here <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2017/10/letter-from-hennepin-county-sheriffs.html>

**Sanctuary City Pledge.** In September I was happy to sign on to The Sanctuary Platform initiated by the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAC) and supported by a large and growing coalition of other organizations. The platform consists of 13 concrete action items intended to better protect, defend and empower immigrants in our city. One of them, immigrant voting rights, is something I have advocated for years and another, creating City ID card ordinance, was formally approved to be taken up by a committee at the Council Meeting on October 6. You can read all 13 items and learn more about the platform at <https://mirac1.wordpress.com/sanctuary-now-platform>

**City's Workforce Demographics.** I am delighted to report that our Human Resources Department has now established two public-facing dashboards that display the demographic makeup of the City's workforce and progress towards our hard fought for and ambitious workforce diversity goals approved this July: City employee workforce representation goals of 41% people of color and 45% women by 2022. As you can find on the dashboards at [minneapolismn.gov/jobs/jobsEEO](http://minneapolismn.gov/jobs/jobsEEO) we still have a ways to go -- currently the City government's own workforce is only 29% women and 27% people of color. The workforce demographics overview dashboard (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/WCMSP-205426>) displays the total number of City employees as well as the percentage of women and minorities in the workforce for each year 2009-2017. Demographics and goals for each of the 22 City departments will be added in the next several months. The other tool is a workforce goals dashboard (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs/WCMSP-205427>) that tracks and monitors the City's progress in meeting more modest workforce diversity goals based on the number of available workers in the City's labor market as determined by the American Community Survey.

**City Recruitment Tools.** Would you like to work for the City of Minneapolis? You can find job postings and more via LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/city-of-minneapolis>, Twitter: @CityMplsJobs, and Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CityofMinneapolisJobs>.

**New 2017 Construction Workforce Goals.** The Council has approved increasing our workforce participation goal for women from 6% to 20% for all city contracted development and construction projects. That means that we will expect any at least 20% of the hours worked to be worked by woman. The participation goal of 32% for people of color will remain unchanged.

**Fall Street Sweeping.** The City began curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the city on October 17. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they're swept. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow posted parking

rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. In addition to the signs the City now uses social media, robo-calls and an interactive website to push out information about when your street needs to be cleared of cars for cleaning. See [www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis](https://www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis), [www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis](https://www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis), and [www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping). The fall street sweep takes four weeks, and visitors to the website will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Then, on the weekend before each of the four weeks, the schedule for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept.

**2017 Yard Waste Collection.** The week of November 13 will be the last week of 2017 collection for leaves, brush and other yard trimmings. Yard waste must be in compostable bags – paper (Kraft) or compostable plastic – or unbagged in a reusable container at least 26 inches high with sturdy handles set next to your garbage cart by 6 a.m. on your pick up day. Find more information at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm>.

**Sick and Safe Leave Ordinance and State Supreme Court.** On October 18<sup>th</sup> the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, who is legally challenging the City's Sick and Safe Leave ordinance, filed a petition for review with the Minnesota Supreme Court. The Chamber is being represented by Robins and Kaplan and their main argument seems to be that the City is preempted from doing this by state law.

**Stadium Report.** In October City Finance staff reported on the first year of financial operation of the downtown Viking's football Stadium in response to a staff direction I authored last December. I was hoping to get more information, particularly about our spending on the nearby park, and am aware that city spending on the stadium itself will not start until 2021. Hopefully this will be the first of more detail and regular annual reports in the future: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/1354>.

**Green to Go.** As St. Paul considers moving new regulations regarding the packaging used for takeout, or carry out food, we are working to align our own ordinance with theirs to make it easier on both businesses and costumers. To help do that, I attended an industry meeting in September to hear from carryout food businesses. I am hopeful that the process will help us strengthen our ordinance and prohibit additional products, like plastic lined paper "hot" cups and lids that cannot be composted or recycled. When fully recyclable and compostable hot and cold cups, lids and dishes are available it seems unacceptable not to require their use. Even if St. Paul does not move forward, I believe that we should expand our ordinance next year.

**Zero Waste.** I thank everyone who attended the zero waste community meeting I hosted, along with Council member Warsame, at Matthews Park. We are now examining how to incorporate the community input into the draft before presenting it to the Transportation and Public Works Committee on November 28 and then to the full Council on December 8<sup>th</sup>. You can download the draft plan and get more information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>

**Harteau Separation and Severance.** In September the Council approved paying \$182,876 and 12 months of employee benefits to Janeé Harteau in exchange for a release of any claims as part of her stepping down as Police Chief. The approved agreement did not contain the non-disparagement clause that was removed, with my support, at the Executive Meeting. I felt this clause was unnecessary and inappropriately could limit free speech and transparency. The Council subsequently approved a resolution, authored by Council Members Frey and Johnson, which would prohibit the use of such clauses in future severance packages.

**Short Term Rental.** In October the Council approved new short-term rental ordinances. Under the rules a short-term rental property registration or rental license is not required for an owner who lives at the property, rents a room and stays at the property during the rental period. A short-term rental property registration (and fee of \$46) is required for an owner who lives at the property, rents out an entire unit and leaves the property during the rental period. A short-term designation on the rental license is required for the owner of a non-occupied rental property who rents out a unit. Only Tier 1 or Tier 2 rental licenses are eligible for this designation. A rental is considered short term if the unit is rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days. The City will begin accepting short-term rental registration and license applications Dec. 1, 2017. Additionally, short-term rental hosting platforms, which collect a fee for booking services and often provide an online platform for property owners to advertise a dwelling unit, will be required to submit an annual business license application. The annual license fee for a platform with fewer than 150 active dwelling unit listings will be \$630, and for a platform with 150 or more active listings will be \$5,000. For more information, go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections/rental/shorttermrentals>.

**Minneapolis Water.** This year marks the 150th anniversary of Minneapolis Water Works. When first established in 1867 by the City Council, the division only supplied water to the Fire Department. Today, called “Water Treatment & Distribution Services” is includes a complex system that cleans and pumps approximately 21 billion gallons of water annually from the Mississippi River. Check out “From river to tap: Exploring how Minneapolis gets its water,” to learn more about what it takes to get all that water from the river to roughly 500,000 people. [http://news.minneapolismn.gov/2017/10/05/river-tap-exploring-minneapolis-gets-water/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](http://news.minneapolismn.gov/2017/10/05/river-tap-exploring-minneapolis-gets-water/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

**“Evicted.”** I was glad to attend a recent talk hosted by the U of M School of Nursing with Matthew Desmond, author of **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City**. There he discussed his insights on housing, health and well-being. This is also the current book chosen by our Citywide Reading for Equity and Diversity (READ) book club made up of interested City employees. The book centers on the stories of eight families in the poorest neighborhood in Milwaukee and how “without a home, everything else falls apart.” Eviction is also serious problem in Minneapolis and the book makes a powerful case for better protecting people against it and for adequately funding Public Housing, so that all who qualify can find stable housing. For more see <http://www.evictedbook.com/>.

**Creative City Challenge.** The City's sixth annual competition for Minnesota artists, architects and designers is open until **November 17** for proposals. The winning temporary, destination artwork will be sited at the new public green space, The Commons, in Downtown East. For more information see [http://northern.lights.mn/platform\\_group/creative-city-challenge/www.BlueLineExt.org](http://northern.lights.mn/platform_group/creative-city-challenge/www.BlueLineExt.org).

**DACA.** The City Council approved a resolution reaffirming the City's support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Trump administration recently called for the end of the DACA program. It is good to see that our City government is strongly committed to policies and programs that welcome and support members of all communities, including creating a legal defense fund to support immigrants and refugees in our city. The Council also authorized the City to join in a local government amicus brief in support of the DACA lawsuit filed by the 16 Attorneys General, including the State of Minnesota, as well as in support of the four related DACA lawsuits in the Northern District of California.

**Santa Clara County Anti-discrimination Case.** The City Council has authorized the City to join an amicus brief involving a case before the U.S. Supreme Court on the constitutionality of enforcing anti-discrimination laws. The case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, involves a Denver-area bakery that refused to fulfill a wedding cake order made by an engaged same-sex couple. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission found that the bakery violated the State's longstanding non-discrimination law. The bakery contended that, because of its owners' asserted religious opposition to same-sex marriage, it should be exempt from enforcement of the law based on religion or free speech grounds. The Supreme Court will likely hear arguments in the case this coming winter. Their decision will likely have a significant impact on cities and counties across the country that seek to ensure that no members of their communities are subjected to discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or any other protected status.

**Construction Continues to Increase.** For the sixth year in a row, the City has surpassed the \$1 billion mark for approved construction projects. New apartment buildings continue to dominate among construction projects, with tall, high rent apartment buildings. Given the continued low vacancy rate, these trends are expected to continue into 2018 and fears of displacement and gentrification continue as more and more city land is being used for high rent luxury housing. There were also a significant number large commercial buildings being converted and/or renovated.

**Terrorist attacks in Somalia.** The City Council passed a resolution condemning the horrific and tragic bombing in Mogadishu, Somalia in October. The resolution (found at [http://lms.minneapolis.gov/Download/File/540/Somalia%20Resolution\\_101817.pdf](http://lms.minneapolis.gov/Download/File/540/Somalia%20Resolution_101817.pdf)) also calls on the U.S. to increase its assistance to Somalia and lift a travel ban to that country.

**Community Solar Gardens.** The City Council has approved two more community solar garden subscription agreements to provide electricity for municipal operations. The agreements with RenaSola and Renewable Energy Partners will save the City an anticipated \$28,000 a year for 25 years. With these agreements, the City is also using our status as a customer that solar

developers really want (we have great credit and purchase a lot of electricity) to ensure that low-income residents also get access to community solar. In addition to buying some of each of these projects' electricity directly, the City is will serve as a "backstop" to low-income customers who might choose to stop purchasing from the community solar garden in the future and we are requiring that a certain percentage of each garden - 20% - must be set aside for low-income customers. The two developers, Renewable Energy Partners and RenaSola, propose gardens that could assist up to 800 low-income households each, with each household saving \$300-\$400 each year in electricity costs. The City of Minneapolis will participate in these chosen gardens at an initial subscription level of 20 percent of the gardens' output, equaling a total of up to 1 million kWh annually for municipal operations. This will bring the City's total community solar garden subscription level to 8.5 million kWh annually overall.

**Blueprint for 100% Renewables for Municipal Operations.** In October the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee received a promising report, called, "Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2022." This report details a method and timeline for the City government to get 100% of our electricity from renewable, clean sources through 3 basic paths. First, continue to increase the purchase of Renewable\*Connect Electricity or secure energy from a clean source where we can be assigned the Renewable Energy Credits. Second, maximize the amount of solar generation on City-owned facilities such as the Water Treatment reservoirs and large City-owned buildings. And third, increase the number of Community Solar Garden subscriptions. Following up on these three paths, the City will likely be able to raise its renewably sourced electricity to 57% by the end of 2018, to 73% by the end of 2019, and 90% by the end of 2022. The year 2023 will be the first complete year utilizing 100% renewably sourced electricity. Following the report the Committee moved to further examine the feasibility of contracting with a third party wind farm development for electricity where the city would be assigned the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) with the electricity production would start no later than January of 2023 when the Renewable\*Connect contract for the 50 million kWh expires. We also voted to release a bid package, before the end of 2017, requesting current Community Solar Garden subscription pricing for up to 4.5 million kWh. This would bring us to a total of 12 million kWh of Community Solar Garden subscriptions. You can find the "Blueprint" at

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/2357/Blueprint%20for%20renewable%20by%202022%20final.pdf>

**Electric Vehicle Study.** In October the Transportation and Public Works Committee received a very exciting study of the costs and benefits of replacing our City-wide fleet of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles with electric vehicle (EV) fleet technology. The study found that there are a number of options that would allow us to both save money and reduce greenhouse gas emission. Some scenarios outlined approaches that can lead to up to a 47% replacement of ICE vehicles with EVs while saving us money and reducing 10,800 MTC of CO2 in the next few years. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/1379>

**Disaster Recovery Resolution.** The City Council has passed a resolution urging support for communities affected by natural disasters in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Texas, Florida and elsewhere. My heart goes out to the victims of the hurricane that struck Puerto Rico, the earthquake that

struck central Mexico, and the hurricane devastated areas of the southern United States including Texas and Florida.

**Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.** Following up on the recommendation of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, the Health Environment and Community engagement has voted to recommend that the City join over 150 other cities around the world and sign onto the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. This provides a voluntary framework and useful guide to provide strategic options to achieve more sustainable food systems. I am particularly excited about the potential for peer-learning and identification potential metrics that could be measured and assessed across participating cities.

**Code of Conduct Ordinance.** I have begun working on a Code of Conduct Ordinance that would establish standards of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors for all City employees. I hope to have something passed by the end of the year.

**Augsburg Signs.** Augsburg has applied for, and has been granted, a variance to exceed the maximum number of freestanding signs on a zoning lot for their Westbank Campus. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/zba> for more information.

**Weatherization of Glendale Townhomes.** Following a successful weatherization pilot project earlier this year at one of the Glendale Townhomes buildings, the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), Sustainable Resources Center, Inc. (SRC), and CenterPoint Energy have decided to move forward with winter weatherization and energy efficiency improvements for all 28 townhomes buildings. I am very glad to see this and hope that this investment in insulation, vent fans, and weather-stripping will mean a warmer winter for many residents. Ten to 12 buildings should see improvements by the end of the year and the rest in 2018. Improvements could also include repair or replacement of furnaces or water heaters, and installation of energy-efficient light bulbs. The cost is estimated to be from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per unit.

**PACE for Ward 2 Apartment Building.** A Council Committee is recommending Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for a 6 unit apartment complex located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, at 2841 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The PACE program allows Minneapolis businesses to finance energy efficiency improvements through an agreement with the Saint Paul Port Authority where the Authority covers costs that are paid back through an assessment on the property. The funding for this project will be used for a solar array, LED lighting, electric charging stations and other Assessments will be placed on the property for a term of 10 years to pay back the financing. As far as I know this is the first residential property to use PACE funding since it has been made available in Minneapolis. How wonderful to have it happening in in Ward 2.

**PACE for Ward 2 Business.** A Council committee has also recommended using Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing at 2746 31st Ave, an office building whose main tenant is Spye. This project includes the purchase and installation of a 134 kilowatt photovoltaic roof mount solar system. The system will be approximately \$438,000 and will result in the saving of 450 MMBTUs and \$15,000 annually.

**Eastside Park Advisory Appointee.** The first meeting of the Park Board's new Community Advisory Committee to provide guidance on the "East of the River Master Plan" was held on October 17. I was asked to make an appointee to the group and appointed Del Hampton from the Prospect Park neighborhood to serve on the group. I am grateful to Del for taking this one and also to the two other Ward 2 people who are serving with him on committee, Abdullahi Ahmed, from Southeast Como, and Ruth Olkon from Prospect Park.

**Hiawatha and Lake Street.** After hearing concerns about the situation beneath the Hiawatha Bridge over Lake Street I have turned my attention to this, even though it is located just outside Ward 2. I was sorry to learn of the fatal stabbing of 26-year-old Daquan Thompson near Lake and Hiawatha in early October. My heart goes out to his friends and family. A person has been arrested and charged in this case and it appears that this was the result of a personal dispute between the two acquaintances. Police are working with the state (who actually owns and controls the land under the bridge) to ensure that the area under that bridge is properly posted so our police officers have a legal ground to remove people from that location. We have also secured a commitment from Hennepin County (as Lake Street is a County Road) to participate financially in the next steps needed to improve and humanize this intersection. In the weeks ahead our staff will be working with the county and neighborhood organizations to achieve a consensus on the preferred "Tight Diamond" design and developing a phased action plan for short-term improvements for the area.

**Bedford and Franklin Intersection.** Public Works staff have brought forward a proposal to improve the intersection at Franklin Ave SE and Bedford. The project is funded; preliminary design shows changes that reduce crossing distances and confusion and improve site lines. Construction is scheduled to occur in 2018. You can find details at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/future/franklin-bedford>

**Hiawatha Trail Gap.** The Council has approved the layout and construction of the bicycle and pedestrian pathways along the Hiawatha Avenue Trail where there is currently a gap between East 28th Street to East 32nd Street: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2017-01195>. I look forward to it being the first of many improvements in the area, especially where Lake Street crosses under the light rail and Highway 55 bridges.

**Prime Place Apartments.** I have had significant concerns about the "Prime Place" development, located on 27th Ave SE. A few weeks ago, I did a walk-through of the project with the head of the Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council, to see his concerns about the risk to workers on the job site and below-standard work that was being done. I have also heard concerns from the University of Minnesota's Student Legal Service, about the student renters' well-being and the violation of the contracts they signed. This building was supposed to have been ready to rent in September, but was only made available in early October - and students were moved in before the building had a rental license. I have shared concerns about the poor quality of the work; the safety and well-being of workers on the site; the ongoing, significant negative impact of the project on the sidewalk, bike lane and travel lanes on 27th Ave SE; and potential health and safety concerns for the residents and potential future residents, with various city staff who I know have been working hard to improve the

situation. Development projects often create headaches, but it is difficult for me to remember a project that has created so many different serious concerns, for so long. For more see <http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/10/n-prime-place-residents-angry-with-living-conditions-seek-legal-action>

**Exploring Making Essex St SE Two-Way.** My office organized a meeting between members of the Prospect Park Association's Transportation Committee, City staff, and U of M staff about the potential to make Essex St SE a two-way street, at least for bicycles. I am open to this idea, and it sounds like City staff and the University are as well. It would be helpful to know what others think as well.

**Sprout Salad Company**, at 309 Huron Blvd SE (Ward 2), has been approved for Wine with Strong Beer Class E and Sidewalk Café Licenses, subject to final inspection and compliance with all provisions of applicable codes and ordinances.

**Rezoning for Oppidan Senior Housing Project.** The Council, with my support, has approved the rezoning of 3000 and 3024 4<sup>th</sup> St. SE as well as 3033 University Avenue from Light Industrial to Commercial Activity Center (C3A) to construct a 10 story mixed use building. The 295-unit complex will be operated by Ebenezer Senior Living

**East Lake Special Service District.** The Council has approved the East Lake Special Service District Advisory Board recommended budget and services for the East Lake Service District for trash receptacle servicing, streetscape maintenance and repair. My thanks to advisory board members Tom Frattalone, Naveen Shrestha, Scott Cramer, Andrew Papacosta, Steve Krause, Alan Puder and Zayda Harsha their service and the contribution the district makes to East Lake Street.

**Aeon Prospect Park.** Aeon has submitted the expected applications to the City in order to move forward with constructing their new 5-story 70 unit apartment building 3001 4th Street SE. They have applied for a rezoning from Light Industrial (I1) to Commercial (C3A; a Conditional Use Permit to increase the maximum building height; a variances to reduce the minimum vehicle parking requirement, the minimum bicycle parking requirement; and to allow for a building placement greater than 8 feet from the property line. The City Planning Commission will meet to hold a hearing, discuss and vote on the applications on **Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.**, in Room 317 City Hall, 350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis, MN. Interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. Please visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning) for the agenda with staff reports).

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