

Second Ward March 2018 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

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Comprehensive Plan Draft. A detailed electronic draft of the City's Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan was released on March 22. This starts a phase of review that will likely lead to further changes in the plan before a final draft is presented to the Council for consideration and approval in December. The draft of interdependent policies, topics, actions steps and maps intended to help guide how we will manage grow and change over the next two decades so all residents benefit. In the draft report, policies are organized under 14 goals the City Council adopted in 2017, and also under 10 topic areas. Among its many notable recommendation, it calls for changes to traditional land use and zoning practices that would allow a greater diversity and density of housing in all neighborhoods, including small-scale multi-family buildings throughout Ward 2 residential areas, with small 1-4 unit building allowed on traditional sized lots and 1 to 2.5 story multifamily buildings above 4 units on a limited number of combined lots, and larger, taller apartments allowed on transit corridors and near stations. The proposal also recommends elimination of minimum off-street parking requirements citywide, creates four new categories of commercial uses and prohibits new heavy industrial uses while preserving land for quality living-wage production and processing jobs. Comments will be collected at public meetings as well as online through July 22, 2018. That feedback will be taken into consideration as City staff revise the plan for City Council consideration. Comments can be made at minneapolis2040.com or shared on Twitter: #Mpls2040 [@Mpls2040](https://twitter.com/Mpls2040). Please take some time to review the draft here <https://www.minneapolis2040.com/> and share your feedback with me and others.

Ward 2 Mpls 2040 Comprehensive Plan Community Meeting. To help me better share the plan, gather feedback and understand your viewpoints, I will be convening a Ward 2 community meeting on the draft plan on **Thursday 7-9pm, April 26** at St. Francis Cabrini Church at 1500 E Franklin Ave. Please join us <https://www.facebook.com/events/211830769401694/>

Spring Street Sweeping. Spring street cleaning will begin **April 17** and run for approximately four weeks. Please look for temporary "No Parking" signs posted in advance to make sure streets are clear of parked vehicles. Drivers need to follow street sweeping parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Impound Lot. Please help remind and warn your family and neighbors. Moving a car is relatively easy compared to the costs and inconveniences of having it ticketed and towed. We can use the City's website to find out when the sweeping crews are coming through their neighborhoods. By the Friday before the first week of the sweep, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup" to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept.

Future of Neighborhood Organizations. The City is seeking feedback on a plan, called the Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap, through April 30th. The plan presents three different approaches to neighborhood funding, programming and support services in preparation for an end to the City's current funding scheme that has been supporting community engagement and neighborhood organization work for decades. This scheme, which used revenues from a special Consolidated Taxing District created by the city and authorized by the state legislature, will continue to provide funds for this work through December 31, 2020 subject to annual City Council budget approval. New funding is proposed to start January 1, 2021. After a community engagement process that concludes in April, recommendations to the city council will be developed and potentially considered by the Council in November 2018. You can find the report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-208855.pdf>, sign up for updates at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020> and comment at NCR@minneapolismn.gov.

Tobacco 21. In March the Council voted to take up an ordinance amendment that would to ban the sale of tobacco products (including nicotine vaporizing devices) sales to anyone under 21. We also set the public hearing for **May 14 at 1:30pm** at City Hall. Five other Minnesota cities have already passed similar legislation. I support this proposal and commend Council Member Johnson and Ellison for bringing it forward. <http://www.startribune.com/council-members-want-to-raise-tobacco-buying-age-to-21-in-minneapolis/477672063/>

Community Forums on Public Safety. The Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee of the Minneapolis City Council is hosting a community forum **5-7pm, Tuesday, April 10** at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th St. to engage with residents on police-community relations and responding to emergencies. For questions or to request sign language interpretation, please call 612-673-2244 or email councilcomment@minneapolismn.gov.

Community Engagement Classes. The Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations is offering classes to help residents and City staff improve community engagement. The Community Connections Series is free and open to all residents. The series covers ways to effectively plan for community engagement, how to successfully engage the major cultural communities of Minneapolis and increase disability awareness. There are both afternoon and evening sessions that will be offered throughout April and May. To enroll and see the schedule, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/learninglabs.

Renewable Electricity Resolution. I have coauthored a resolution with Council Members Steve Fletcher and Jeremy Schroeder committing the City to reaching a goal of 100% renewable electricity for both the City enterprise and the broader community. The resolution will commit us to using 100% renewable electricity as an enterprise by 2025, and to reach 100% renewable electricity for the broader community by 2030. This builds on the work of our Climate Action Plan and includes a direction to our Sustainability staff to create an implementation plan that will allow us to make progress towards reaching this goal. One concern I have had about resolutions of this kind is that they are sometimes adopted with a lot of fanfare, but sit on a shelf and make very little real change. I believe and hope that our resolution will help drive the

kind of real, concrete change that we need to reach this important and aggressive goal. The current schedule is for this resolution to be presented through the Public Health, Civil Rights and Engagement committee in late April. I want to thank the advocates who have put this on the City's agenda and have helped vet this resolution to make it as strong as possible: the Sierra Club Northstar Chapter, the Community Environmental Advisory Commission, the Energy Vision Advisory Committee of the Clean Energy Partnership, and more recently a youth organization called iMatter.

Xcel's Pro Nuclear Power Bill. In response to a very disturbing state bill (Senate File 3504/House File 3708) introduced in March, the City Council has updated our legislative agenda to oppose any new legal or regulatory "mechanisms designed to maintain existing nuclear power plants – or reclassify existing plants as 'carbon reduction facilities' – while raising electricity customers' bills outside of the normal rate case." The proposed bill would create a new classification of nuclear power plants as "carbon reduction facilities" and would create a less publicly accountable pathway for massive investments into these aging and dangerous plants. Given the energy future so many want, the risks of these plants and the extreme toxicity of the waste they create I believe that those investments would be better spent on less harmful, cleaner renewable energy production. You can read the language of the bill here: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3504&version=latest&session=ls90&session_year=2018&session_number=0&format=pdf, and more about how it is problematic here: http://www.communitypowermn.org/xcel_energy_seeks_blank_check_for_nuclear_option

State Legislators Aim to Void Local Environmental Laws. The state legislature is poised to pass a law that would preempt and undo waste reduction ordinances that have already passed in city governments like Minneapolis and St. Louis Park and preempt all Minnesota cities from passing their own ordinances on any single-use bag fee and recyclable or compostable to go food containers. This would nullify our popular and successful "green to go" food container ordinance has already done so much to reduce the amount toxic polystyrene being burned at the downtown garbage burner. The bill is [HF 3606](#). If it passes the legislature I hope the Governor will veto it. Governor Dayton can be reached at 651-201-3400, and 800-657-3717.

Ranked Choice Voting Also at Risk. In addition to efforts to preempt packaging regulations, some state legislators are also working to prohibit the use of Ranked Choice Voting in local elections. The bill (H.F. 3690; S.F. 3325) that got a hearing in March can be found at: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF3325&y=2018&ssn=0&b=senate>.

Campaign to Defend Local Solutions. As we face multiple preemption bills at the Legislature designed to roll back our authority to make policy on a whole host of local issues, I thought you might want to join me and others in pushing back by signing on to this campaign. The campaign exists to "raise awareness about these preemption laws that silence local voices like yours and attack local officials for votes they cast." I have asked the Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations committee and key IGR staff how we might sign onto this campaign as a City enterprise. I also wanted to let you know that it exists and encourage you to sign on individually. You can find out more and sign on to the campaign here: <http://defendlocal.com/about/>.

Court Rules in Favor of the City in Minimum Wage Lawsuit. The City has prevailed in a legal challenge to our minimum wage ordinance. The decision means the ordinance, which took effect January 1, will stay in place. For this first phase of the ordinance, large businesses with more than 100 employees are required to pay workers a minimum of \$10 an hour. Smaller businesses are gradually phased in with the first minimum of \$10.25 set to begin on July 1, 2018. The City's Department of Civil Rights oversees enforcement of the municipal minimum wage, and employees are encouraged to report violations. There are more than 84,000 people in Minneapolis with incomes below the federal poverty level. An increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is expected to benefit 23 percent of workers in Minneapolis (about 71,000 people). For more information visit minimumwage.minneapolismn.gov. For additional questions call 311 or email minwage@minneapolismn.gov.

Annual Report on Sick and Safe Time and Minimum Wage Ordinance. In March the council received our first annual report from the Civil Rights Department on the enforcement of our worker protection ordinances. The Safe and Sick Time ordinance went into effect last year and the Minimum Wage ordinance in 2018. So far there have been a total of 126 complaints. Some of those were dismissed, 14 have "settled," 3 determined to be violations and 44 are still under investigation. The presentation can be accessed at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/2229>

Small Business Team Consultation. The City's Small Business Team, (Suado Abdi, Zoe Thiel and Angie Earley) is working to do more outreach to businesses and business associations this spring and summer. As part of that effort they will be holding ongoing community office hours. Community office hours for Small Business Team Consultation will be held downtown at the Central Library 2nd floor, every other Tuesday, with the next hours on April 10th 10am-1pm; at the Hosmer Library –every 3rd Wednesday of the month, with next one on April 18th, 3pm-6pm; and, at the North Regional Library –every 4th Thursday of the month, with the next on April 26th, 1pm-3pm. For more information contact the Team at 612-673-2499 or smallbusiness@minneapolismn.gov.

Violence Prevention Week. Youth Violence Prevention Week is March 31-April 8 and helps call attention to the issue of youth violence and ways to combat this public health epidemic. You can find a list of events at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/youth/yvp/preventionweek>

Diabetes Alert. The Council has approved participating in Diabetes Alert Day events April 7 and 8 to encourage people to find out if they are at risk for diabetes and to take steps to prevent Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes Alert Day events will run from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at Cub Foods, 701 W. Broadway Ave. and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, April 8 at Cub Foods, 2850 26th Ave. S. At the Diabetes Alert Day events, pharmacists will provide screenings, free blood glucose tests and information about their My Diabetes Coach Program. Minneapolis Health Department staff will also be there to connect people with Minneapolis-based Diabetes Prevention Program classes. This is part of a five-year program to improve the quality of care for diabetes patients..

‘Carry-on Homes’ wins 2018 summer Creative City Challenge. The participatory art installation “Carry-on Homes” by Peng Wu, Zoe Cinel, Shunjie Yong, Preston Drum and Aki Shibata won the 2018 Creative City Challenge. “Carry-on Homes” will host the stories of immigrants looking for a place to call home and will open at The Commons June 15 as part of Northern Spark. You can learn more at <https://carryonhomes.com/>.

Energy Use in Mpls. Buildings. The 2016 Energy Benchmarking Report is now complete. It analyzes the 2016 energy use of 276 commercial and 158 public properties that submitted data to the City as required by the building energy benchmarking and transparency ordinance. The buildings in the report include 125 million square feet of floor space, 80 percent of the city’s commercial square footage. These buildings account for more than 686,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent carbon dioxide production of about 143,000 households or roughly 80 percent of the households in Minneapolis. All energy and water data associated with properties covered under the ordinance is now public in spreadsheet form and on an interactive dashboard you can find at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/energy/WCMS1P-137830>. The report and more information can be found at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/environment/energy/WCMS1P-116916> and www.minneapolisenergybenchmarking.org.

Legislative Information Management System. The City has a new Legislative Information Management System (LIMS) and is looking for places to show its capabilities to the public. You can find it at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/>. The City Clerk’s Office has presented at a few neighborhood association and business group meetings so far, and is looking for more groups who might be interested in learning more. Staff are also glad to incorporate election information into our visits to neighborhood associations, too, including bringing along registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and other informational resources. Please reach out to me or my office if you are interested in scheduling a LIMS presentation for an upcoming meeting.

Seasonal Election Jobs. The City is planning to hire around 50 individuals to support the administration of the election this year. Work may begin as early as May and run through the November 6 General Election. From April 16 – April 30 applications will be taken for a Poll Book Supervisor. From April 23 – May 7 openings will be posted for 6 Absentee Voting Supervisors, 2 Assistant Election Judge Trainers, 4 Warehouse Staff; and from May 4 – May 18 for 34 Absentee Voting Election Support Specialist. When available, job postings can be found at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/judges/seasonal>

Conduct on Premises Ordinance. In response to the concerns about evictions Council Members Cunningham, Ellison and I have begun the work of amending our Conduct on Premises ordinance. The Council has established a staff workgroup that includes representatives from the Police Department, Regulatory Services, the City Attorney’s Office and the Health Department to help ensure that any amendments are effective in helping landlords manage tenant behavior but not force or encourage evictions when they are not necessary or justified.

Housing Advisory Committee. Following up on the recommendations of the Public Health Advisory Committee in March, I am working on a resolution to present to Council in April that would establish a new official city advisory committee that will advise the Departments of Community Planning and Economic Development, Regulatory Services, Health, the Sustainability division of the City Coordinator's Office, and the City Council regarding matters related to the accessibility, maintenance, and development of stable, quality, sustainable, healthy, and affordable housing in the City of Minneapolis.

Department Head Reappointments. The process of approving heads to lead the various departments is still underway. Every two years the Council needs to approve new directors for the Assessor, City Coordinator, Civil Rights, Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), the Fire Department, Health Department, Public Works, and Regulatory Services. The Police Chief's term is 3 years and will not be up until the end of this year. So far, the Council has approved the reappointments of Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works, and Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde as City Coordinator and Susan Segal for City Attorney. I supported the first two but voted against the City Attorney's reappointment. The Mayor and Executive Committee have also nominated David Frank to lead and Velma Korbel to be reappointed as Civil Rights Director. The public hearing will be on April 16, 2018, to consider the reappointment of Velma Korbel. In April the Executive Committee will consider the Mayor's recommendation to reappointment the current Fire Chief, Jim Fruetel and Director of Regulatory Services, Noah Schuchman.

Reappointment of City Attorney. Mayor Frey's nomination of Susan Segal to be reappointed as City Attorney met with some community concerns that I shared. My concerns were serious enough that I voted against the reappointment. Before casting my vote I stressed the following points about the performance of this important city department. First, I hope we will do more to help protect the rights of the people of Minneapolis, especially the least powerful, and not so much to help those who are already doing really well, including wealthy and powerful corporations. We should be more willing to use the law to go after powerful bad actors (like Wells Fargo), and we should not use the law to find ways to help the wealthy and powerful (like the Vikings). Second, we should facilitate people exercising their free speech rights, including their right to nonviolent civil disobedience, rather than using the law to penalize and discourage free speech and protest. Third, we should be willing to disagree openly and respectfully and as Council members, as the people of Minneapolis, we should expect to get the best legal advice possible, even when it cautions us against something we, and even a majority of the Council and Mayor, want to do. This should include being informed about the legal arguments for and against alternative courses of action. And lastly, we need to continue the work to dismantle the institutional racism and classism that we know is still all too prevalent in our criminal justice system. You can find some details about concerns others have about this reappointment at <http://www.nlgmn.org/> and <http://southsidepride.com/2017/12/11/we-need-a-new-city-attorney/> and watch my comments by going to the agenda and clicking on the video link of the Enterprise Committee report section at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/Council/439>

Lights Out Campaign. Once again this year the Council approved participating in Earth Hour on March 24 as a symbol of the City's commitment to being part of the solution to climate change. We also thanked all the businesses that participate in Earth Hour and the Audubon's Lights Out campaign. The Lights Out program calls for turning off lights between midnight and dawn during bird migration seasons from March 15 to May 31 in the spring and from August 15 to October 31 in the fall. Over 250 species of birds migrate through Minnesota along the Mississippi migratory path each spring and fall. Many birds migrate at night and can be drawn off course by lighted structures in their flight path and are killed or injured when they collide into buildings. Minneapolis buildings participating in the Lights Out Program this year include 20, 100 & 111 Washington Square, 33 South Sixth St./City Center, 333 South Seventh Street Tower, Ameriprise CSC Building, Ameriprise Financial, AT&T Tower, Campbell Mithun Tower, Canadian Pacific Plaza, Capella Tower, Carlyle Condominium, Fifth Street Towers - 100 & 150 South Fifth Street, Fifty South Sixth, Grant Park Tower, Hennepin County Central Library, Hennepin County Government Center, Hennepin County Health Services Building, IDS Center, International Centre, LaSalle Plaza, Marquette Plaza, Mill Ruins Building, Mill City Museum, Oracle Centre, PWC Plaza, RBC Plaza/Gaviidae Common II, Retek on the Mall, River Parkway Place, Riverplace, Thrivent Financial, US Bancorp Center, US Bank Plaza, and the Wells Fargo Center. <http://mn.audubon.org/conservation/lights-out-program>

Bicycle Sharing Ordinance. Most likely in response to potential changes to bike sharing programs in Minneapolis, and technology that would allow a system that does not require docking stations, Council Member Reich has introduced potential amendments to our ordinances that would add regulations for bicycle sharing operations.

Major Public Building Investments Approved. In March, following a special public hearing on March 20th, the Council approved a five-year capital improvement plan and issuing bonds to help fund three significant building projects: the East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility, City Hall renovations, and the new downtown Office Building/Public Service Center. There are three buildings, two of which are directly linked into one projects in the plan. The first is located at 340 27th Avenue NE, known as the East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility ("East Side Facility"). It is expected to include bonds of up to \$47,000,000. The other two buildings under this plan consist of renovations to City's space in the historic City Hall located at 350 South 5th Street and construction of a new office building/new public service center to be located adjacent to City Hall at 501 4th Avenue South. Currently the City leases space for its employees spread throughout downtown Minneapolis in five different facilities, plus it owns two buildings that are at the end of their useful life. These leased and outdated facilities house Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), Health, Regulatory Services, Public Works, Finance and Property Services, the Youth Coordinating Board, Human Resources, Neighborhood and Community Relations, Information Technology and the Assessor. The City plans to move portions of the investigations division of the Police department and other parts of the Police department that interact with the public to the new public service center building along with outward facing departments or portions of departments. Human Resources, parts of Information Technology, parts of Finance, and Property Services, will move into space vacated by the Police department in City Hall. Therefore, significant renovation costs will be incurred in City Hall for the relocated departments plus remodeling for existing uses such as Emergency

Communications and other City Coordinator departments. The construction of the 380,000 square foot new public service center will provide better service to residents and businesses. The amount of these bonds issued for both the City Hall and the new office building/new public service center are estimated at a maximum amount of \$108,000,000. The total construction and renovation costs for City Hall and the new public service building could reach \$210,000,000 and additional funding will come through the sale of property that the City owns at the former City of Lakes and old Public Service Center. Construction is expected to commence in 2018. Under state law these special CIP Bonds are subject to a so-called "reverse referendum:" if a petition signed by voters equal to at least five percent of the votes cast in the City in last general election is filed with the City Clerk within 30 days after the public hearing regarding the bonds, the bonds may not be issued unless approved by the voters (by a majority of those voting on the question). More details can be found at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/WM/430>

Judy Farmer. I was sorry to learn that longtime Second Ward resident and former School Board Member and President Judy Farmer has died. Her family is planning a celebration of her life from 2-4pm **April 7** at the Minneapolis Woman's Club. <http://m.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000244555/?fullname=judith-lehman-farmer>

Minneapolis Music History. The City has been awarded a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete a Music Context Study about the history of music in Minneapolis. I am serving on the Steering Committee that will help to guide the study process that will be managed by our planning department with support from Hess Roise Historical Consultants. The study that is scheduled to be submitted in October and will identify and document a wide range of music genres and the places that have played an important role in developing and sustaining Minneapolis music. To learn more and take a survey to share your ideas please go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/hpc/WCMSP-208555>

I-35W Portions Close. This Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) is doing major construction on Interstate 35W that is expected to last through the 2021. This year major portions will close, including all exits connecting I-35W traffic to Downtown. To learn more visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/35w94/>, or call the hotline at (612) 284-6125 or email info@35w94.com.

Housing Valuation Concerns. In March most Ward 2 property owners received their property valuation statements for 2018. Many, especially those in the Seward and Longfellow areas, saw significant increases and have shared their concerns about this with me. Since hearing concerns I learned that the real estate market right now has very little inventory for sale and that buyers are offering full list price or more than list price for properties entering the market. The marketing time in Ward 2 in 2015 was 32 days, today the average days on market is 13 and it's not uncommon to see properties sell in 3-4 days. At my request the Assessor's Office provided me with the following details that may be of interest to some of you. Como's 976 parcels in Ward 2 saw an average estimated market value (EMV) increase of 11.1% where 46 properties were sold last year with a median sales price of 243,802. Cedar Riverside Ward 2 properties saw a 7.1% average increase with no sales. Prospect Park properties saw an average increase

of 9.4% with 12 properties sold with a median sales price of \$343,641. Seward's 1032 parcels saw an average increase of 18.8% with 37 sales and a median price of \$ 276,075. Longfellow's 1212 properties saw an average increase in EMV of 15.7%, 47 sales and a median sales price of \$244,707. Cooper's 1278 parcels saw a 9.8% average increase, 52 sales and a median sales price of \$273,071. In total, for all Ward 2's 5136 parcels we experienced an average increase of 13.2% in estimated market value and the median sales prices for the 194 of them that were sold was \$268,820. It is also worth noting that, while important to it, the valuation does not determine the property taxes and it is possible for your value to go up and for your property taxes to go down. For more information on the assessment process, how it relates to property taxes and how to appeal your value see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor/index.htm>.

Extend the Greenway. There will be a public kickoff meeting for the Extend the Greenway Campaign on **Thursday, April 5, from 5:30 - 7:30pm**, at Anne Sullivan community school on the Greenway (3100 E 28th St, Minneapolis, MN 55406). The purpose of the campaign is to extend the Midtown Greenway over the Mississippi River and through Saint Paul. For more information, contact Soren Jensen at Soren@midtowngreenway.org

Block Leader Training. The 3rd precinct police are offering Block Leader Trainings **Tuesday April 4** and **Monday June 11** from 6:30 – 8pm. Block clubs offer a great tool for crime prevention and community building. The training will help you learn what block clubs do, how to organize your neighbors so you can have a direct impact on preventing crime and be prepared to work with neighbors and the police if there is a problem on your block. For more contact Karen.notsch@minneapolismn.gov.

Business Assistance Service Providers. The Council has approved 2018 funding recommendations for business-consulting services that support new business development, retention, and growth, focusing on minority and women-owned business. The service providers and funding amounts are as follows: Neighborhood Development Center, \$75,000; Northside Economic Opportunities Network, \$60,000; Metropolitan Economic Development Association, \$50,000; African Development Center, \$50,000; Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, \$40,000; African Economic Development Solutions, \$40,000; West Bank Business Association, \$35,000; Latino Economic Development Center, \$33,000; Seward Redesign, \$30,000; Bunker Labs, \$25,000; Bii Gii Wiin Community Development, \$24,500; Lake Street Council, \$20,000; GLITCH, \$20,000; and Impact HUB, \$10,000, subject to modifications as approved by the Department of Community Planning & Economic Development Director. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00277>

Business Technical Assistance 2018. The City's Business Technical Assistance Program (B-TAP) is offering a variety of small business training and technical assistance opportunities this year. Offerings include a series of workshops that cover specific legal issues and advice on business growth, finances, leases and managing people. There are one-on-one trainings and business plan classes to support businesses in different stages: feasibility, start-up, retention or growth. There are special offerings for artists, for creating cooperatives, for construction businesses, promote the development of women and minority-owned real estate developers, and for those

hoping to launch a nonprofit social enterprise. For more information, opportunities and business resources visit

<http://www.minneapolis.gov/cped/B-TAP> or email btap@minneapolis.gov.

Open Streets Dates Set. Seven Open Streets events have been scheduled for 2018. Those in Ward 2 neighborhoods include the Lake and Minnehaha event that will take place on Sunday July 22, Franklin that is set for Sunday August 26, and University of MN that will be held Sunday September 30th. Open Streets Minneapolis is a free event bringing together community groups and local businesses to temporarily close major thoroughfares to car traffic, opening them up for people walking, biking, rolling, and playing. Find more information at www.openstreetsmpls.org.

Minnehaha Academy North Campus Rebuild. Minnehaha Academy is moving forward with plans to rebuild their Upper School campus following the tragic explosion last year. They hope to have new buildings constructed this summer to allow all students to return to the campus in the fall. The Longfellow Community Council's Neighborhood Development & Transportation Committee (NDTC) will discuss this at their meeting on Tuesday, April 3rd from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Longfellow Park and Minnehaha Academy is hosting a community meeting on Wednesday, April 4th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at their Lower/Middle School Chapel at 4200 West River Parkway. The Public Hearing at the City Planning Commission (CPC) is scheduled for April 9, 2018, and both the applicant and staff are recommending the applications be continued to April 24 where the Planning Commission's vote on approval will likely occur. The project will be reviewed internally by City and Park Board staff on April 11. If the Planning Commission decision is not appealed within 10 days the school will likely resubmit updated plans and, if they meet all of the requirements and conditions, they can submit for a building permit. The building permit review can take several weeks so the soonest they could be able to get a permit would be the week of June 18th. You can review their current plans at <http://www.minneapolis.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-208948.pdf>

Annie Young Meadow. On March 17 I was delighted to join friends, neighbors and other elected office holders to remember Annie Young and dedicate the renaming of Lower Riverside Park, to Annie Young Meadow, in her honor. Young served seven consecutive terms on the Park and Recreation Board representing the entire city as an At Large Commissioner, from January 1990 until December 2017, making her one of the two longest-serving commissioners in the board's 134-year history. She passed away in January at the age of 75. This small park on the bank of the Mississippi was one of her favorite parks and renaming it in her honor was a request she made before passing away.

Fresh Thyme Liquor License. The new grocery store, Fresh Thyme, has been approved to receive a license to operate a Liquor store at its new store at 26 30th Ave SE. The hours of operation will be 8am-10pm, Monday-Saturday, and Sundays from 11am-6pm. They will have a strict policy of carding all patrons who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages. They will not serve anyone who appears to be intoxicated. They will have security cameras inside and outside of the business. <https://lms.minneapolis.gov/File/2018-00259>.

4th Street Lofts. The Council has approved the application of Harlem-Irving Companies to rezone the property at 2813 4th St. SE from the I1 Light Industrial District to the R6 Multiple-Family District following the Planning Commission's approval of the variances to reduce the minimum yard requirements on all four sides of the property. These approvals will allow Harlem-Irving Companies to move forward with their plans to construct a six-story building with 169 dwelling units and 40 parking stalls. The apartment will contain 107 "micro units" (averaging 390 square feet), 36 one-bedrooms, and 26 two-bedrooms, for a total of 195 bedrooms. All parking would be enclosed below grade and accessed from 4th Street SE.

Pro Soccer in Ward 2. Minnesota United is returning to University of MN Stadium for the 2018 Major League Soccer Season beginning in March. A schedule can be found at <https://www.mnufc.com/schedule>

Riverton Community Housing. In March the City Council, with my strong approval, authorized the issuance of up to \$25 million in Tax Exempt Revenue Bonds for this new cooperative housing project in Southeast Como near Van Cleve Park at 1220 Brook Ave SE. We also approved specific housing goals to ensure there is affordable housing there for at least 30 years. A ground breaking ceremony for this project is planned for April 26th at 3:30pm. You can find more details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00280>

New Truck Service and Sales Operation in Como. Interstate Development has been granted a conditional use permit to operate a truck sales, service or rental business at 600 Kasota Avenue. They plan to purchase the building and lease the entire 55,000 square foot building to Boyer Trucks. Boyer Trucks is a 90-year-old, employee owned (ESOP) company in the business of selling and servicing medium and heavy-duty trucks.

River Gorge Advisory Committee. I have appointed Gabriel Konar-Steenberg, from Seward, to serve as the Ward 2 appointee on the Park Board's River Gorge Community Advisory Committee. The Park Board is drafting a Master Plan for this 132 acre land area along the east and west banks of the Mississippi's only true gorge. The area includes Bohemian Flats, East River Flats Park, East River Parkway, Franklin Terrace Dog Park, Riverside Park, and West River Parkway. Gabriel joins some 20 other committee members who will meet from now until November to help the Park Board develop the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan. My thanks goes to Gabriel for his willingness to serve and to all those who applied.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this spring. People can apply and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. The positions are open until filled. There are 99 open positions on 15 City boards and commissions: Advisory Committee on Aging; Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities; Animal Care and Control Advisory Board; Bicycle Advisory Committee with the application review process beginning March 30; Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, with the application review process beginning April 6; Community Environmental Advisory Committee; Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, with the application review process

beginning April 20; Pedestrian Advisory Committee, with the application review process beginning April 20; Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC); Public Housing Authority (MPHA); Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee with the application review process begins March 30; Transgender Equity Council; Workforce Development Board; Workplace Advisory Committee, with the application review process begins March 30; and, Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee. Potential applicants can find more information at 612-673-2216 or OpenAppointments@minneapolismn.gov.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open Community “Office Hours” in the ward every Monday 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 Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St;

Second Mondays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Mondays at T-Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE; and

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

Cam Gordon

Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward

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