



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 6-19-14

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Thursday, June 26nd, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

Items:

- 1) Property Accessed Clean Energy (PACE) Project
- 2) Community Meetings on Engagement
- 3) Blueprint for Equitable Engagement
- 4) Green Business Awards
- 5) Sidewalk Sales Ordinance
- 6) Hennepin County Will No Longer Honor ICE Detainers
- 7) Pop-up Parks.
- 8) Home Buyer Assistance for Veterans
- 9) Health & Safety Improvement Business Loan Program
- 10) STEP-UP Interns Begin Summer Jobs
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has approved our first PACE projects that will allow property owners to make clean energy investments and pay them back on their property taxes. This includes the Longfellow Market (3815 E Lake St), which is seeing a special assessment of \$282,150. Longfellow Market plans to install lighting system upgrades as well as new refrigeration systems exceeding current requirements for energy efficiency. I am very excited to finally see projects moving forward using this tool that I have been working for years to make available to Minneapolis property owners. While it is focused on commercial property at this time I hope to see it made available to homeowners in the future.
- 2) The Health, Energy and Community Engagement Committee and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission are holding two community meetings on community engagement on **Thursday, July 31**, 6-9pm at East Phillips Park, 2307 17th Avenue South, and **Saturday, August 2**, 9:30am-noon at Folwell Park, 1615 Dowling Avenue North, in the gymnasium. We will be exploring ways to improve our community engagement system in Minneapolis to help make this a better, more engaged, more equitable city. We will be asking residents and community members: How can city leaders better support, engage and work with neighborhood and community leaders and organizations to help make Minneapolis more racially and economically equitable? What can city and neighborhood leaders do to help ensure that neighborhood organizations and all city boards and committees reflect our communities? What would get you more involved in your neighborhood organization and in the civic life of our city?
- 3) The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) Department, and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has a plan to improve community engagement in called the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement. It is aimed to help neighborhood organizations assess whether or not their outreach efforts, board decision making processes and distribution of resources is being conducted with a lens of equity and inclusion. Second, it will look at the City's boards and commissions with the goal of having the advisory and planning boards and commissions reflect the diversity in the community. The City Council charged both the NCR department and the NCEC with making recommendations on the best way to achieve this goal. Recommendations have been developed and are in either being considered or implemented. Third, it will look at the City enterprise's outreach and engagement efforts and the community engagement efforts of City departments and how they connect and involve residents. The committee approved a motion directing NCR staff and the NCEC to report back by December 1st with a summary of the findings, draft recommendations and performance measures regarding the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 4) The Health Department and the Health Environment and Community Engagement⁵ committee recognized four businesses on June 2 as the 2014 Minneapolis Green Business Awards for Pollution Reduction. The businesses were: Martinizing Dry Cleaners, Mulroy's Body Shop, Paramount Collision Center and University Service. We awarded these businesses for their investments in the health of their workers, customers and neighbors by converting to cleaner technology. Martinizing Dry Cleaners, Paramount Collision Center and University Service made their investments with help from the City's Green Business Matching Grant Program. The City of Minneapolis offers grants of up to \$30,000 each to help dry cleaners reduce pollution by switching their processes from perchloroethylene to clean solvents. Perchloroethylene is the main chemical solvent used in dry cleaning and is a neurotoxin that causes kidney damage and is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency as a likely carcinogen. The City of Minneapolis offers grants of up to \$20,000 each to help vehicle repair, service and maintenance businesses switch to painting, cleaning and repair processes that reduce harmful air emissions and hazardous waste. More information and grant applications are available at www.minneapolismn.gov/greenbusiness.
- 5) The Council has approved Council Member Glidden's ordinance amendment related to sidewalks that will allow retailers to display and sell merchandise on a limited portion of the sidewalk directly in front of their business. I supported this item and believe it strikes a good balance between allowing greater flexibility for businesses and continuing to provide good pedestrian access along our commercial corridors. I want to thank Council Member Glidden for her work on this.
- 6) The Hennepin County Sheriff and Attorney announced that as of midnight June 11, the Hennepin County Jail will no longer honor US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees, absent judicial authority. Recent directives by Immigrations & Customs Enforcement that detainees are now considered discretionary along with subsequent Federal Court decisions articulating the same, are strong indicators that the legal landscape is changing on this matter. I want to thank Sheriff Rich Stanek and County Attorney Mike Freeman for taking this great step in the right direction.
- 7) A Pop up Park initiative will be launched on Monday, June 16th at the intersection of Golden Valley Road and Penn Ave at 4pm. The Pop-Up Park tent will include music, art, games, crafts, dance and more especially targeted to youth age 12 – 17. It will be moved through the summer and located in neighborhoods that are particularly challenged with street safety and transportation issues for teens, as well as at festivals and events to encourage teens to join in their community's gatherings, and to learn about resources. This is a new partnership between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Youth Violence Prevention. The Pop-Up Park will be operating six days a week typically from 4-9pm, for eight weeks this summer.
- 8) The City of has started a new down payment and closing cost assistance program to provide active military or veterans with affordable homeownership opportunities in Minneapolis. The program offers up to \$20,000 in the form of a zero-percent interest deferred loan that is forgiven at the end of five years as long as the home owner remains living there. Priority for the program will be given to Reservist or National Guard members who are currently deployed or have recently returned from deployment. Reserve Aid, a national nonprofit organization that assists military families, has committed \$200,000 in funding for the program in 2014. Funds will be administered through the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) on behalf of the City of Minneapolis. For more visit <http://www.gmhchousing.org/down-payment-assistance>
- 9) The City has a new Business Health and Safety Improvement Loan Program to help small Minneapolis businesses pay for needed code compliance and other remedial minor physical improvements for regulated businesses. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to general repairs, flooring, grease trap installation, floor drains, automatic roof vents, food service equipment and pollution reduction upgrades as part of the Green Business Program. The Business Health and Safety Improvement Loan Program is managed for the City of Minneapolis by the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). For more information: contact daniel.bonilla@minneapolismn.gov
- 10) On June 16, 1,650 Minneapolis young people began their summer internships with STEP-UP. Working with 230 plus employers, young people will gain professional skills and build their networks by working in a variety of jobs. STEP-UP prepares youth for the future by matching them with meaningful internships at local employers. This summer, STEP-UP interns will earn an estimated \$3 million in wages. More than \$1 million will be provided by private sector employers, allowing STEP-UP to employ more youth.
- 11) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.