



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 8-13-13

**Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 27th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

Items:

- 1) Framework for Our Energy Future
- 2) Community Participation Funding
- 3) Mayor's 2014 Budget
- 4) Longfellow Market Approved
- 5) Ranked Choice Voting Video
- 6) Youth Cabinet
- 7) Feral Cat Management and Reduction
- 8) MPD Officers Suspended
- 9) Conservation District Ordinance
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) After helping lead the effort to hold a public hearing on putting a question on the ballot this fall that would ask for authorization for the city form a municipal utility, I have decided not to move forward at this time. Instead I offered an alternative resolution that I expect will pass the Council unanimously tomorrow. It was passed today by the Council's Committee of the Whole and commits the City to five important things: 1. developing a comprehensive energy vision through the Energy Pathways Study, which is to incorporate the Climate Action Plan goals and strategies and the recommendations of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission; 2. continuing to push at the Legislature for the flexibility we need to address our energy goals through our franchise agreements, or create a municipal utility; 3. continuing to study all of our energy options through the Pathways Study; 4. reaching a framework for our new franchise agreements that we hope will meet our energy goals by June of next year, which will keep the pressure on the utilities to make sure they deliver on their commitments to be good partners; and, 5. directing our staff to start working on negotiating franchise agreements that will meet our energy goals. I did this in large part because both utility companies made significant commitments to be better partners in helping us reach our Climate Action Plan goals and I believe the next few months offer us, as a community and a city, a unique opportunity to continue the conversation about the energy future we want for ourselves and our City. CenterPoint Energy signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minneapolis Energy Options coalition that commits to help the City meet our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2025 and to assist all of its customers in reducing their energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, through on-bill financing for residential energy efficiency investments, a pilot comprehensive residential retrofit program, a comprehensive multifamily retrofit program and more. Xcel Energy has also committed to help the City reach our goals, and has committed to specifics including implementing a community solar program, creating a standard contract for renewable projects, and sharing more information with the City about reliability issues and planned infrastructure projects. Xcel has also offered to work with the City on a plan to invest in renewable energy and use it to power City infrastructure, like street lights. It's good to see the utilities coming to the table. Now it's the City's turn to hold them to their commitments to be good partners in meeting our energy goals. This is incredibly important work for the City to be doing. In order to stabilize carbon concentrations in the atmosphere, we need to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. Electricity and natural gas provided by Xcel and CenterPoint account for two-thirds of our carbon emissions. It's great that energy is finally becoming a priority issue for the City, because it needs that level of attention. I'm hopeful that the conversation that has begun – thanks in large part to the great work of the Minneapolis Energy Options campaign – will continue and will lead us to a cleaner, more affordable, more reliable energy future.

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

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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.

- 2) On August 1, the Committee of the Whole approved future funding for the Community Participation Program (CPP). Final approval will likely come at the August 16 City Council meeting and neighborhoods can begin submitting proposals. Over \$11 million will be provided during the 2014-16 program cycle. Greater Longfellow is slated to receive \$480,979. Proposed neighborhood allocations, base data, and the CPP Program Guidelines (which have not changed) can be viewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs>. The City will be holding three informational sessions in late August and early September to answer questions about submitting Community Participation Plans for funding, and for neighborhood organizations to meet with NCR's Access and Outreach staff about ideas for reaching under-engaged communities. For more information, please contact Robert Thompson at Robert.Thompson@minneapolismn.gov or at 612-673-2523.
- 3) Today, the Mayor presented his 2014 budget. It calls for a 1% **reduction** in the property tax levy, an increase in police and fire staffing to deal with expected aging and attrition in those departments, and increased infrastructure spending, among other things. I look forward to hearing and sharing more details, but as it stands I am supportive of this budget.
- 4) The City has approved all of the land use applications necessary for the Longfellow Market at the corner of 39th Ave S and Lake Street, including rezoning from C1 to C2, adding a Transitional Parking overlay to a parcel at 3013 38th Ave S, and vacating part of an alley. I'm hopeful that this project will go forward and be successful, adding a full-service grocery store to this vital intersection and helping revitalize Lake Street as a commercial corridor.
- 5) The City has produced a new video demonstrating how Ranked-Choice Voting works. You can find it here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct70K5la5gk> as well as on the new Elections/RCV website, at: vote.minneapolismn.gov. This website is where the most current, accurate information will be posted throughout the election period. I expect it to be available in other languages soon. Our Voter Ambassadors will be using this and other resources in the months ahead to educate voters about how Ranked-Choice Voting works.
- 6) In August I will be introducing a resolution that would formally create a Minneapolis Youth Cabinet. The cabinet would primarily be an internal workgroup charged with coordinating the City's role in implementing the Youth Coordinating Board Call to Action and Youth Compact, developing a framework for incorporating the needs of youth and families into more of the work of the City, supporting department efforts to incorporate youth and children in their goals, business planning and work, and fostering more opportunities for engaging neighborhood and community partners in supporting youth and families.
- 7) The final language for the Trap Neuter Release ordinance I have been working on has been completed and I will be requesting a hearing date September 11. The ordinance is intended to allow volunteers who are working with nonprofits to implement Trap Neuter Release programs, like those allowed in St. Paul and many other cities, to help us humanely and effectively manage the problem of feral cats and help reduce the numbers of cats living in feral cat colonies.
- 8) As you have likely heard, two Minneapolis Police officers, Shawn Powell and Brian Thole, have been suspended for recent behavior in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They are alleged to have used racist language after an incident involving two black men in a bar, and to have made "sexually offensive" comments about Police Chief Janee Harteau. It is worth noting that these particular officers are named in multiple lawsuits against the City of Minneapolis. These include the suit brought by Derryl Jenkins after he was beaten by MPD officers, which the City settled for \$235,000. I support the Chief's decision to suspend these officers. Racism and sexism have no place in the MPD or any other City department.
- 9) The Conservation District Ordinance amendment I have been working on for several months is nearly complete. The proposal would allow property owners and neighborhood advocates to identify historic resources to conserve and to define historic values and characteristics that the community is looking to preserve. If one third of the property owners within a proposed conservation district consent, they can apply to become a Conservation District and an Establishment Study can be completed. Design guidelines would be drafted as part of the study and at least two thirds of the property owners of tax parcels would need to give their consent before the matter would be taken up by the Heritage Preservation Commission and then referred to the City Council for approval. If approved, property owners in districts might need to apply for conservation certificates to make changes to their properties if that is stipulated in the guidelines. This is a very brief summary, so please let me know if you would like a copy of the proposed ordinance or more information and I would be happy to share it with you. Also, next month we will hold a larger community meeting to gather more input before the formal public hearing.
- 10) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.