



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 6-21-12

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday June 26th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Corporate Personhood Resolution
- 2) Trees
- 3) Longfellow Station
- 4) Rental License Revocation Ordinance
- 5) Expansion of Premises Ordinance
- 6) Maximum Occupancy
- 7) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) With my strong support, the Council has unanimously passed a resolution supporting a US Constitutional amendment that would make clear that corporations are not persons. This amendment would help regulate the toxic and out-of-control corporate spending in our political processes, spending that I believe directly threatens our democracy. The Council has also gone on record in our Federal Legislative Agenda supporting transparency in corporate political spending on elections. This would not have been possible without all of the groundwork done by the amazing organizers at Move to Amend, <http://movetoamend.org/minnesota>.
- 2) My Policy Aide, Robin Garwood, has attended the River Gorge Committee and plans to attend next week's Environment and Transportation Committee, in both cases to talk about Emerald Ash Borer and tree planting generally. The City and Park and Recreation Board can and should do a better job communicating options, policies and recommendations about boulevard ash trees. As I understand it, the Park Board's policy is that a) they are proactively removing unhealthy or otherwise problematic boulevard ash, b) they will remove healthy boulevard ash at the request of the adjacent property owner, and c) property owners may pay for insecticide treatments as long as they are trunk-injection, not soil-drench. The City took a position in 2010 recommending that residents **not** treat ash trees, but proactively replace them with new trees. The City has also worked with the U of M on a **Tree Canopy Study**, and I am encouraging neighborhoods to work with the City's Tree Advisory Committee on proactive, strategic plans to encourage property owners to plant trees on private property. You can find the Tree Canopy Study here: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/action/canopy/sustainability_mplsurbanreecanopymap. It seems like there is real and growing interest in this issue in Longfellow, and I'm excited to see LCC show what a neighborhood can do to increase private tree planting.
- 3) The Council has granted approval to issue bonds and take the other necessary actions to allow the Longfellow Station project at 3815 Hiawatha Ave to move forward. I was very supportive of this move, which I know has been a long time coming. I consider this an important success for Longfellow, and for Transit Oriented Development more broadly.
- 4) The Council is considering changes to the ordinance regarding revocation of rental licenses. I am supportive of this and consider it a careful reorganization of our rental licensing ordinance. I believe that that the City will still have the tools we need to enforce our standards, but this will give us some more flexibility. I am especially supportive of the educational requirements, which will be a very good addition to the ordinance. Among the mandatory training requirements: Healthy Housing Training will be required when an inspector declares a property as substandard, owners with one revocation who own more than two properties will be required to attend a class on the fundamentals of property management, and if someone is seeking to have a license that was revoked reinstated, they will need to provide proof they have attended the fundamentals of property management.

- 5) The Council is considering an ordinance amendment by Council Member Schiff that would extend the twelve days of temporary expansions for alcohol-serving establishments that have been in place for the University stadium and downtown to the rest of Minneapolis. This would be an increase from the current eight days (or four two-day events) businesses may hold events. I am basically supportive of this idea. Every application for a temporary license is subject to review and approval. Failure to meet minimum standards during any event may result in restrictions on or denial of a future license. Requirements such as insurance, security, and mandatory permits, to name a few, must be completed in advance. The on-sale license holder is responsible for the activities and actions occurring at the event. I should note that since these new standards have been in place in Stadium Village, my office has heard no complaints. I have also received expressions of support from Ward 2 businesses, especially folks on the West Bank. Due to questions I've heard from neighborhood organizations, I supported delaying this ordinance for two weeks, to give residents a chance to weigh in. It will come back to the Council on **June 29th**.

- 6) As you may know, I support improving the City's Maximum Occupancy (MO) regulations. I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance to do this, and it is currently near the bottom of the Planning Department's work plan. I consider the current ordinance to be unfair, outdated and very difficult to enforce. One problem with the current regulations, from my perspective, is that they apply only to "unrelated" persons, and that the definition of "family" is overly narrow. I know that in Minneapolis, there are numerous households that function as mutually-supportive family units for all practical purposes, but do not meet the City's definition of "family," and are therefore in violation of our MO ordinance. I also believe that the current MO regulations are not effective tools in addressing neighborhood livability concerns including parking, noise, and property upkeep and I am proud of the many successes the City has had in recent years to improve and protect livability in Southeast Minneapolis and I will continue to work hard to find fair and effective ways to do that. There are also interesting examples of regulations in other cities that might serve as models for regulations that protect neighborhoods without too narrowly and exclusively defining "family." I would like to work with all Second Ward neighborhoods, including Prospect Park, on a maximum occupancy reform that could gain broad based community support from longtime homeowners, student renters, LGBT families, and others. .

- 7) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.