



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room  
301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3250  
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

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

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 7-19-12

**Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

**Items:**

- 1) Voter ID Constitutional Amendment
- 2) Trees
- 3) Hiawatha Transmission Line
- 4) McDonalds Extended Hours Application
- 5) Fire Department Report
- 6) Farmers Market Finder
- 7) Unisys Contract Audited
- 8) National Night Out
- 9) Electric-Assist Pedicabs
- 10) Mattress Collection
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has received an informative and disturbing report from our City Clerk and Elections Department on the potential impacts of the proposed "Voter ID" Constitutional Amendment. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-094785>. I will also be adding some analysis of this topic on the Second Ward blog, <http://secondward.blogspot.com>. The bottom line is that this amendment will make it much harder for many Minnesotans to vote, and create significant difficulty and cost for the Minneapolis Elections Department. It will do away with same-day registration and vouching, create a new "provisional ballot" system, and have unclear but significant impacts on absentee voting. I am also convinced by the League of Women Voters' argument that the ballot language passed by the Legislature does not accurately reflect what the Constitutional Amendment would do. I am hopeful that, for this reason, the Minnesota Supreme Court will keep this question off the ballot this fall. If not, I urge you to **vote no**.
- 2) The Tree Advisory Committee to the City and Park Board has voted to work with the Longfellow Community Council on an educational and outreach campaign about trees. Such a campaign would encourage private property owners to plant trees – especially trees that get big enough to provide significant benefit – and address the Emerald Ash Borer crisis. The Tree Canopy Study can be a resource for this work. My Aide, Robin Garwood, is eager to help the Tree Advisory Committee and LCC build this outreach effort.
- 3) The City has won a major victory on the Hiawatha Transmission Line. On a 3-1 vote, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a tariffing plan for the Midtown Hiawatha Transmission Line where all costs, including the extra costs associated with burying the line underneath 28<sup>th</sup> St E, are to be distributed throughout Xcel Energy's five state rate base. In other words, the Minneapolis ratepayers will not be required to bear any extra costs for the project beyond those paid by all other rate payers in Xcel's territory. This is the final step in a three year project by the City to ensure that the transmission line, if installed, was installed underground on 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Many people deserve credit for their roles in making this happen. This could not have happened without the hard work of Greg Sautter and Corey Conover in the City Attorney's Office. Our community partners, especially the Midtown Greenway Coalition, were also instrumental. As I have said for years, I continue to question the need for this new transmission line and wish that Xcel had chosen to meet the growing demand through increased efficiency and renewable energy production in Minneapolis, but this decision gives the City our strong second preference.

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](mailto: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.

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 4) The McDonalds at 3110 E Lake St. has applied for an Extended Hours License to operate a 24-hour drive through service 7 days a week. I would welcome your thoughts on this and am hopeful that when this comes before the committee on July 23<sup>rd</sup> we will vote to limit any extension to 1:00 am on Sunday-Wednesday and 2:00 am on Thursday–Saturday.
- 5) The Minneapolis Fire Department has given a report on its Agency Evaluation and Master Plan at the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. This is an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the Fire Department compiled by Emergency Services Consulting International and will help us see how the department compares to similar departments and consider recommendations to address short, mid and long term strategies to improve effectiveness and increase efficiency.
- 6) The City now has an online interactive map at [www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets) that makes it easy to find one of the 29 convenient farmers markets now operating in Minneapolis. Clicking on the map pins will show the address, season dates and opening times for each market. Many Minneapolis residents can reach a farmers market on foot or by bicycle, which is good exercise and doesn't pollute. Seven of the markets accept "electronic benefits transfer" cards as payment to give residents on federal food assistance easier access to fresh, healthy food. Thirteen of the farmers markets are special small markets that the City licenses to make fresh and affordable produce available to low-income neighborhoods.
- 7) The City's Internal Audit department has conducted an audit of the City's information technology contract with the Unisys Corporation. The contract, which began in 2007 and ends in 2015, is currently valued at **\$86,363,655**. The audit found significant issues in our contract management with Unisys. First, quoting from the report, "While IT management reviews the invoices for accuracy and completeness, there is **no evidence to support the invoice itself was reviewed**. Also, the support documentation provided by Unisys only show total dollars **without adequate details** used to calculate the totals (i.e. rates and hours). Additionally, while there are written procedures on the IT invoice review process, the procedures are **very brief and do not include detailed steps**." Second, there are concerns about our contract monitoring: "IT management **does not receive relevant reports** from Unisys as stated in the contract. Also, there is currently **no agreed upon process** in place to validate that the City is receiving the most favored equipment prices and/or taking advantage of any special promotional rates or discounts." I continue to have serious concerns about the amount of money the City spends on this information technology contract, and the lack of oversight found in this audit compounds that concern. This seems like one of the clear consequences of outsourcing what had been – and arguably should still be – a core City function. In June the Council referred this report to the Ways and Means Committee for further review.
- 8) Registrations are now being accepted for the **August 7** National Night Out online or through 311. If you want to block off your street, you can do so for free through July 24. From July 25 through August 2, there is a \$100 fee. After August 2, no applications for blocking off a street will be accepted. Last year, more than 60,000 Minneapolis residents gathered during National Night Out to celebrate with a record 1,173 events in all 83 neighborhoods of the city. An improved, easier to use online registration process, the quality customer service from 311, and the hard work of the City's Crime Prevention Specialists were just a few of the reasons for the increased participation.
- 9) I have given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance that would allow electric-assist bicycles to be used as pedicabs in Minneapolis. The City had been prohibited from allowing this by state law, until Senator Scott Dibble included legislation in this year's transportation omnibus bill that clarified that electric-assist bicycles are a type of "bicycle," not a type of "motorized bicycle." The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee has taken a position in favor of this ordinance change, and I look forward to working through the details with them, City staff, and the pedicab industry.
- 10) The City has entered into a 3-year contract with Project for Pride in Living to recycle the materials from discarded mattresses. This was necessitated, in part, by the downtown garbage burner's decision – which I applaud – to no longer accept mattresses. PPL will deconstruct each mattress to remove the recyclable metals and other materials, helping the environment and creating jobs for low-income residents.
- 11) 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).