



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 4-10-14

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Thursday, April 24th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

Items:

- 1) Longfellow Market Opening April 14
- 2) More Funding for Potholes
- 3) Small Business Loan Programs
- 4) Spring Street Sweeping
- 5) Zero Waste
- 6) Organics Collection
- 7) City Goals and Values
- 8) Electronic Ridesharing
- 9) New Nightclub Proposed for Lake Street
- 10) Boulevard Planting Ordinance
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The proposed Longfellow Market grocery store will be opening its doors next **Monday, April 14th**. Please join me in welcoming this great new store, located at 3815 East Lake. It will help strengthen the commercial node at Lake and 39th, and by extension the whole Lake Street commercial corridor. I want to thank Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development staff for the help they provided in getting this project to completion.
- 2) In response to the intense weather this winter and damage to our streets the Council is poised to vote to reallocate \$1,000,000 from the Contingency Fund for the purpose of providing additional resources to perform an accelerated level of pothole patching in 2014.
- 3) In March the Council received our annual report of the City's small business lending programs. The city offers six different small business loan programs: 2% Loan Program, Alternative Financing Loan Program, Energy Efficiency Loan Program, Business Development Fund Loan Program, Working Capital Guaranty Program, Homegrown Business Development Center loans, Business Recovery Loan Program, and the Business Health and Safety Loan Program. Last year the city provided 49 such loans totaling \$2,426,000. These are estimated to have leveraged \$14,591,000 from private lending and helped create 273 new jobs and retain 339 jobs in 2013. I believe that these programs play a critical role supporting business investment in neighborhood commercial districts. For more details you can find the full report here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-121554.pdf>.
- 4) The City has scheduled spring street sweeping to start with posting on Monday, April 21, for the first day of sweeping on Tuesday April 22. Please help your friends, neighbors and customers look for the posted signs to avoid a ticket or tow – and help the City get the winter accumulation of sand and debris off of our streets and out of our waterways.
- 5) Along with the Mayor, several of my Council colleagues and Congressman Keith Ellison, I co-hosted a Zero Waste forum on March 20th, at Walker Church. There we learned more about San Francisco's program, waste reduction legislative efforts of Representative Frank Hornstein, the connection between Zero Waste and Climate Change from Ward 2's own Shalani Gupta and about the role of composting from Russ Henry, co-chair of the Minneapolis Homegrown Food Council. Following the forum the Mayor unveiled her plan to hire a special Zero Waste coordinator to work out of her office. I support this and I am excited to see this conversation getting started. I look forward to focusing more on this effort in the months ahead.

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.

- 6) The Council has received a report from our Solid Waste and Recycling staff on the processes and policy decisions the Council will have to make in order to move forward with citywide collection of source-separated organics. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-122108.pdf>. Staff's recommendation is that if we move forward with a citywide program, that would be paid for by all utility ratepayers (at a cost of \$2.38- \$3.25 per dwelling unit per month), should be opt-in for participants (meaning that residents would have to contact the City to get an organics cart), and that we should collect organics not commingled with yard waste. The upfront cost of the program will be at least \$5 million to pay for additional trucks, support facilities, and carts. The ongoing cost will be at least \$3.5 million per year, less the \$80,000 in annual savings from tip fees at the garbage burner. I looking to ensure that we will build a more robust education and outreach program into this effort, because I think that's what it will take to be successful. I'm also interested in exploring whether the City should give an organics cart to all customers from the start. The Council will hold a Study Session on this issue in the next month or so. I am enthusiastically supportive of putting this new program in place, and will push for the City to build the best program we can and roll it out as soon as possible.
- 7) On March 29th the City Council formally adopted a vision and a set of values, goals and strategic directions to guide our work for the next four years. The vision statement is "Minneapolis is a growing and vibrant world-class city with a flourishing economy and a pristine environment, where all people are safe, healthy and have equitable opportunities for success and happiness." The values state that we will be a city of Equity, Safety, Health, Vitality, Connectedness and Growth; and that we work by Innovating and being creative; Driving toward results; Engaging the community; Showing employees they are valued; Building public trust; and Collaborating. The five new goals are: Living well: Minneapolis is safe and livable and has an active and connected way of life; One Minneapolis: Disparities are eliminated so all Minneapolis residents can participate and prosper; A hub of economic activity and innovation: Businesses, big and small, start, move, stay and grow here; Great places: Natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected; and, A City that works: City government runs well and connects to the community it serves. The Council also voted to develop measures for these and directed staff to report at least annually on progress and seek stakeholder and community perspective on measures, progress and implementation. You can find more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/citygoals/index.htm>
- 8) Council Member Jacob Frey has proposed an ordinance change that will, if passed, allow "peer to peer" rideshare companies like Lyft and Uber to operate in Minneapolis. I am supportive of this ordinance. In my view, rideshare business have a place as an innovative transportation solution that can help us meet our goals for reducing the number of miles people drive alone. Rather than continuing to regulate them as taxicabs – which they clearly are not – or expressly prohibiting them, as some would prefer to do, I believe that we should regulate these services as what they are, and require them to meet high standards on insurance, driver quality, and more.
- 9) Hamoudi Sabri is proposing a new restaurant with entertainment and a full liquor license at 2716 E Lake St. He informed me last week that he will be applying for the necessary licensing and land use approvals soon. I have encouraged him to reach out to the Longfellow Community Council and Longfellow Business Association.
- 10) The city Council has approved an ordinance amendment that allows more types of plants to be grown within boulevards, including fruits and vegetables, that were previously prohibited, provided they fall within certain safety parameters. It also clarifies that Department of Regulatory Services has the authority to enforce violations pursuant to established administrative processes.
- 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. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are more than 40 open positions on the following six City boards and commissions: [Civil Rights Commission](#); [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#); [Workforce Council](#); [Public Health Advisory Committee](#); [Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission](#); [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#); Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions. 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.