

## Second Ward December 2015 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

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**2016 Budget Passes.** On December 9<sup>th</sup>, after a long and emotional public hearing, the Council unanimously passed a \$1.24 billion 2016 budget with only a few amendments to the one proposed by the mayor in August. Some amendments I supported. This includes one that reallocates \$50,000 of existing funds to support senior initiatives as part of the Minneapolis for a Lifetime. These funds could potentially support groups like Southeast Seniors and Seward Longfellow Seniors. I also supported amendments that added \$305,000 for implicit bias, procedural justice, and crisis-intervention training for Minneapolis Police officers; that added \$1.5 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to provide for a total of \$10 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2016; and a motion that will create a racial equity website aimed at both external and internal stakeholders. I did not support the amendment that passed that took \$50,000, proposed by the Mayor, from a new Green Zones initiative or a motion that would have moved \$605,000 to the Police Department for repair/improvement to the 4th Police Precinct that received most of public comment but was ultimately not even moved. If we need to repair damage to the Precinct, there is a City contingency fund that exists for those kinds of unforeseen expenses. If we need to upgrade security for the building, there is an existing capital process for those kinds of investments. Given the recent protests and the raw feelings of grief and anger large parts of our community feel towards the City and especially the police department since the shooting of Jamar Clark, I felt that this was the wrong time to try to put a lot of money towards securing the 4th Precinct without clear and unanimous community support. While it was a long and emotional public hearing, it was also powerful and inspiring. I am glad that the community came out, that so many people spoke so forcefully and eloquently, and that ultimately the Council respected the community's will. In the end I voted, along with my 12 colleagues, for what is really a strong budget, which helps us maintain or improve our current services and focus resources to address some of most pressing needs: closing economic disparities, racial equity, clean energy, biking and walking, job training programs, quality affordable housing, addressing climate change, improving our environment, preventing violence and improving police practices and our criminal justice practices, and investing in the roads and bridges we depend on. You can find

**Limited Production Ordinance.** The Council has approved the ordinance I authored that will open up more areas for people to operate limited production and processing enterprises in commercial areas of our city. It also improves and simplifies our regulations about the size of commercial uses in general. The amendment overhauls the regulations for limited production and processing by defining the use, increasing the maximum allowed size to 5,000 square feet, and making limited production and processing a permitted use in all commercial districts. We will continue to require the main entrance of a limited production and processing use to open to a retail or office component equal to not less than 15 percent of the floor area of the use. Most of the variances for limited production and processing in recent years have been for food and beverage production uses. In recent years, entrepreneurs have opened small-scale establishments throughout the city that create cured meats, chocolate, beer, spirits, honey and other food and beverage products. This has helped fill commercial storefronts, provided an avenue for local food, and has contributed a lot to the quirky, unique local food scene. With the adopted changes, these types of businesses could now be established administratively, without a public

hearing before the City Planning Commission. The amendment also moderately increases the maximum size allowance for commercial uses in all commercial zoning districts and the High-density Office Residence District (OR2), streamlines the development review process, and generally allows for more viable mixed-use buildings with small-scale, neighborhood-serving commercial uses.

**Emergency Shelter Ordinance.** The City Council has unanimously approved the shelter ordinance amendments I coauthored with my colleague Lisa Bender. This means the city will now allow small emergency shelters in many more places in the city and allow larger overnight shelters as a primary use in only the C2, C4, Downtown and Industrial Living districts. It will allow emergency shelters in most zoning districts, but with the number of beds defined by the zoning density, and will never be greater than 32. In addition, I am authoring an ordinance that will require emergency shelters to be licensed by the City's Health Department (which is already responsible for hotels, motels, boarding houses and etc. through the Food, Lodging and Pools division). I look forward to seeing these ordinances pass the Council early next year. I am hopeful that this easing of regulations will result in additional high quality, new shelters being open in the city.

**National Initiative to Improve Policing.** In December the Council received an update about the progress of this important initiative intended to improve policing and community-police relations. I was grateful to Council Vice President Elizabeth Glidden (who chairs the committee) for putting The National Initiative for Building Community Truth and Justice's implementation plan on the Council's Committee of the Whole agenda and for taking public comment on it this month. You can see the implementation plan here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/cow/WCMS1P-152755>. The National Initiative is charged with improving the relationship between police and the communities by enhancing procedural justice, reducing implicit bias, and encouraging reconciliation processes. In 2016, through a federal grant, the city will hire a full time staff person to coordinate the implementation of the plan. The plan lays out several strategies, four of which are explained briefly below.

**Procedural Justice and Implicit Bias Training.** In the months ahead all Minneapolis police officers will receive a customized procedural justice course using the train-the-trainer model. This fall police instructors from the MPD participated in a training program where they learned the content of the procedural justice curriculum and worked with trainers and researchers to begin to customize a procedural justice curriculum for MPD. The finalized training will be designed to be presented over the course of at least three days and will be given to new recruits and rank-and-file officers.

**Assessment and Data Collection.** Additionally Christopher Moulton, the National Initiative Project Director for the Center for Policing Equity (CPE), will conduct officer/civilian Climate Assessment to gain insight into potential implicit bias trends at both the officer and law enforcement agency level. A complementary, more detailed Attitude Behavior Matching survey will also be administered to approximately 250 officers, enabling researchers to match officer attitudes with their individual behaviors via performance data. The CPE will also collect MPD data on the use of force, pedestrian stops, and vehicle stops. This, and the surveys, will help identify where training, changes and/or changes in the police policies, procedures or practices are needed.

**Reconciliation and Truth-Telling.** One of the more interesting strategies of The National Initiative team might be the development of a reconciliation and truth-telling process that they are proposing tailoring specifically for Minneapolis. The plan outlines a process that includes an acknowledgment of historical harms, narrative sharing, and a commitment to reform. It will begin with small-group reconciliation meetings between police leadership and key members of affected communities. This will likely begin in

small-scale settings, such as face-to-face meetings or small “circles” with key community figures, with expansion over time into larger settings.

**Group Violence Intervention.** The City will also receive (through the national Initiative) technical assistance in implementing a Minneapolis specific version of David Kennedy’s Group Violence Intervention, known as “Operation Ceasefire.” This program has demonstrated that violence can be dramatically reduced when a partnership of community members, law enforcement, and social service providers directly engages with the people involved in, or most at risk for, violence. This is something the Youth Violence Prevention Committee has investigated and includes a genuine offer of help at risk individuals from people who have credibility in the community.

**Land Access for Food Growing.** The City has approved new rules that will bring changes for community and market gardens in 2016, including making 43 additional City-owned vacant lots available for lease. In addition to more lots, next year leases will not only be limited to community gardeners - urban farmers and market gardeners will also be eligible. Other changes include leases for three to five years on unbuildable lots, insurance liability requirements decreased by \$1 million for community gardens, and applications to be taken over a set period of time rather than the previous first-come, first-served selection process. These changes were a high priority for me and a key part of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council’s 2015 policy recommendations. This in turn was in response to growers who have been asking us to allow more city-owned vacant lots to be available under more reasonable lease terms for urban farming. My thanks to the Food Council and to Council Member Jacob Frey for sponsoring this policy change and working to see its successful passage.

**Blueprint for Equitable Engagement.** The comment period for the City’s Blueprint for Equitable Engagement ended on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff in the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department will be making the final edits to the document between now and January and plan to take the final version to the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission for approval. Then the final document will go to the City Council in February for final approval and adoption. Once it is adopted it will provide the City with a strategic action plan to help guide neighborhood organizations and broader city community engagement work over the next five years. To review the latest drafts and learn more about the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement>

**Results Minneapolis.** In December the City issued our first “Results” reports, and held our first Results conferences, since approving our new set of Community Indicators. These reports focus on two indicators related to child health and education: 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency and Infant Mortality Rate. In Minneapolis from 2011-2013 the Infant Mortality Rate is 6.4. This means that out of 1000 births, 6.4 infants died during their first year of life. This is higher than the national rate of 6.0 and the state rate of 4.9. For black babies born in Minneapolis between 2011 and 2013, the mortality rate was 10.4. For white babies it was 4.0. An analysis of Minneapolis Public School (including charter schools) student achievement data showed that in 2015 only 40% of students tested as meeting or exceeding reading proficiency standards. Again there were racial disparities in proficiency rates as follows: 74% of white students, 39% of Asian/Pacific Island, 23% of black, 23% of Hispanic and 22% of Native American. The reading achievement gap between white and black third grade students was 51 percentage points in 2015. With the exception of Asian and Pacific Islander students, the gap is consistently 50 percentage points or more for students of color. The report also reveals that third grade classes in Minneapolis schools are segregated with only 30% of schools having enough white and black third grade students to calculate an achievement gap. The report also found that proficiency rates appear to be impacted by a

student's mobility in and out of schools. These data show the pernicious and ongoing gaps in all measures of success between whites and people of color in Minneapolis – gaps that we absolutely must close.

**Business Made Simple.** In December the Council unanimously approved amending eight chapters of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances related to business licenses based on recommendations of the Mayor's Business Made Simple initiative. The action eliminates business licenses for several license types of business that either present little or no reasonable need for consumer protection or regulation, already need to hold licenses from other jurisdictions or city departments or could be merged into a broader license type. For a list the changes and more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150415>

**Green Homes North.** This month the City Council authorized the release of the Request for Proposals for Round 5 of Green Homes North, an initiative started in 2012 to build 100 energy efficient homes over five years to revitalize neighborhoods in North Minneapolis. Funds are repaid at sale, minus a Green Homes North program subsidy required to write down the cost of the home to meet the market. It is anticipated that private developers and non-profit developers will participate and respond to the Green Homes North Request for Proposals. In the first four years, \$4.5 million in grants were awarded for 55 homes. As of November 39 homes have sold or are pending sale, 2 homes are on the market and 14 homes are under construction. Green Homes North homes are built to Enterprise Green Communities standards. For Round 5, over \$1 million in grants and up to \$2 million in loans is anticipated to be available. Green Homes North is supported by the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Housing, the Family Housing Fund and the Twin Cities Community Land Bank.

**Home Ownership Counseling.** For the past several years the City has contracted with Minnesota Home Ownership Center (HOC) for homebuyer education and foreclosure prevention counseling services, and oversee the work of the actual counseling organizations. In December the Council authorized issuing a request for proposals for getting these services. I expect the Home Ownership Center to submit a proposal but hope others will as well so that we can assure that we are providing these services in the most effective and affordable way possible. Funding has been approved for next year and will be subject to approval during the normal budget process for future years. The total contract could exceed \$1 million over the five years.

**Language Access Plan.** This Month the City Council approved a new Language Access Plan consisting of policies and procedures on implementing language services to communicate with residents with people who have limited English proficiency. It goes into effect January 1, 2016 and contains policies, procedures and practices to better communicate with and serve residents who cannot speak, read, write or understand the English language at a level that permits him or her to interact effectively with English speakers. The updated 2015 Plan includes both the federally mandated Limited English Proficiency requirements, and City-based initiatives to increase language access, services, engagement and participation. To see the full plan visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151786>

**State Legislative Priorities.** In December the Council approved its state legislative priorities for 2016. I was glad to see that funding for 10th Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation was included as a top priority. We are requesting \$31.875 million to address ongoing deterioration of its concrete and add a minimum of 40 years to its useful life. We also approved requesting funding for our Emergency Operations and Training Facility Expansion (\$2.5 million) and the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Fence Restoration

(\$609,000). This is the oldest surviving cemetery in Minneapolis and only cemetery in Minnesota listed as an individual landmark on the National Register of Historic Places. In the policy area I am very happy that the City supports:

- New and sustainable funding for multi-modal transit and a comprehensive transportation bill that provides the resources to preserve investments and meet the transportation and transit needs of residents, visitors, and business.
- Making the Driver Diversion Program permanent, while also increasing access to it.
- Requiring criminal background checks on all gun sales.
- Increased funding for youth employment programs, including the Minnesota Youth Program and the Youth Workforce Development Grant Program to ensure that youth, especially low income youth and youth of color, have access to employment opportunities that create pathways for successful careers.
- State-level policy and funding to eliminate racial disparities in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Public Health, Housing, Building Wealth, Workforce Development, Employment Access and Workplace Policies, Capital Investments, and Certification, Procurement, and Business Development.

**NEW Multi-family Energy Efficiency Program.** Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy are working together to help apartment building owners achieve whole building energy savings. Customers with the two utilities will have a single point of contact and receive a free whole-building audit, free installation of low cost improvements (such as faucet aerators and compact fluorescent lights) and guidance on energy efficiency opportunities. This has grown from the "Energy Score Cards Minnesota" project you can read about here <http://www.energyscorecardsmn.com/>. I hope that many Minneapolis apartment building owners will take advantage of this program. The Clean Energy Partnership between Minneapolis and the two utilities will be tracking how many apartment buildings are improved through this program, and working on ways to increase those numbers.

**Workplace Partnership Group.** City staff have launched a website at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/workplacepartnership/index.htm](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/workplacepartnership/index.htm) to provide information about the group's work on developing policy recommendations related to earned sick time and paid time off. The site is provides notice of several upcoming "listening sessions" scheduled in January 2016. So far, they have identified the following groups and are working to finalize details for these listening sessions.

- Jan 6: Latino employees and employers (CTUL sponsored)
- Jan 7: construction/manufacturing employees and employers
- Jan 13: Nonprofit and social sector employees and employers
- Jan 14: Downtown/large employers and employees
- Jan 14: Small businesses (including Metro IBA) employees and employers
- Jan 17: Hospitality/service industry employees and employers
- Jan 20: Open Public Forum – North Minneapolis
- Jan 21: Open Public Forum – South Minneapolis
- Jan 28: Public health/health care employees and employers

**2015 Employment Services Awards.** Congratulations to Lifetrack and HIRED who each received awards from the City for providing outstanding employment services to Minneapolis residents 2015. Lifetrack earned the Adult Service Partner of the Year award for their performance in the Train-to-Career program that provides training, job placement and retention services for low income residents over 17 years of age. HIRED was selected as Youth Service Provider Partner of the Year for its work providing youth age 14 to 21 with comprehensive education, employment and internship experiences.

**Civil Rights Boards and Commission Appointments.** On December 11 the Council approved next appointments for the three significant Civil Rights advisory commissions. I was glad to see that Second Ward resident Andrea Brown was reappointed as chair to the Police Conduct Oversight Commission, and Second Ward resident Lonnie Nichols was reappointed to the Civil Right Commission. I was a part of the review group who looked at all the applications, and interviewed a few applicants, and I was very impressed with the quality of many of the applicants. These two commissions have enormous potential to help us solve some of the most pressing problems facing our city. Additionally we made appointments to the Police Conduct Review Panel.

**Recycling Contract.** The City has received two responses to our Request for Proposals for the processing and marketing the all the recycled materials we collect from residents. Staff are now reviewing responses from our current provider, Waste Management of Minnesota, Inc., and Eureka Recycling. The review panel includes Solid Waste and Recycling and Finance staff, Hennepin County staff, and a consultant from Burns and McDonnell. Proposals will be reviewed based on criteria established in the request such as materials accepted and recycled, ability to accurately analyze the types of materials collected, revenue sharing from material marketing, as well as financial responsibility and capacity of the proposer. Once scoring is completed, proposers will be interviewed and staff will evaluate facilities. I expect the staff recommendation to come to the Transportation and Public Works committee on February 2, 2016.

**Youth Violence Prevention Grants.** In December the Council accepted 3 substantial grants to support our efforts to protect our youth from violence. One of \$50,000 from the federal Department of Justice Crime Victim Services, will help implement our hospital-based intervention program where we work with health care professionals working in emergency rooms to identify and bring resources to youth at risk for future violence. The second of \$30,388 is from a federal Department of Justice Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and will support our Somali Youth Future Leaders project. The last is \$90,000 from the state Youth Intervention Program funds that will support our Inspiring Youth program where we bring mentoring and resources to youth at risk for violence or victimization.

**Small Grain Milling.** I was happy to support Council Member Jacob Frey's zoning code change to make small-scale grain milling legal in Minneapolis again. It may seem odd that the "Mill City" ever made milling illegal, but it was one of many actions the City took in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century to exclude food-based uses from our neighborhoods. I view this move as part of the local food renaissance that the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council is helping to lead.

**Inclusionary Zoning Proposal.** I was happy to see Councilmember Bender give official notice at our last council meeting of 2015 that she will introduce "inclusionary zoning" regulation ordinance amendments next year. Inclusionary zoning, or inclusionary housing, ordinances are used in many other cities in the state and in country to require and/or encourage developers to make a certain percentage of units in new developments affordable. Hundreds of cities around the country have adopted ordinances requiring inclusion of affordable units in new developments of varying sizes. This link (<http://www.tchousingpolicy.org/solutions/>) is a good place to start to learn more about this complicated but promising tool. I believe that it is one that could help ensure that Minneapolis (unlike some growing and rapidly gentrifying cities like San Francisco) can be a place where people from all economic classes and income levels can afford to live for a long time to come.

**Dry Cleaning Regulations.** Council Member Andrew Johnson has given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance amendment at our first meeting in 2016 that would prohibiting the use of certain solvents

using perchloroethylene in dry cleaning establishments. Perchloroethylene, or “perc” is a source of serious air pollution and sometimes soil pollution as well. Many dry cleaners have proven that there are cleaner alternatives and I look forward to supporting this worthwhile effort in 2016.

**STEP-UP Summer Jobs.** This month the City of began accepting applications for 2016 Step-UP summer internships. Eligible Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 who have until February 5, 2016, to complete an application at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped\\_stepup](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup) . This is a great program that serves youth who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, youth of color, youth from recent immigrant families, and youth with disabilities. Since the program was launched in 2004, it has provided over 21,000 internship opportunities. In addition to summer jobs with more than 230 top Twin Cities companies, nonprofits and public agencies, STEP-UP also offers work readiness training, advanced-level internships and industry-specific career opportunities that help interns integrate their career exposure with post-secondary education and career planning. Prior to being placed in their internships, youth receive work readiness training and throughout their internship, they gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and become exposed to careers they may have not otherwise accessed. Last year more than 1,600 Minneapolis youth were placed in jobs with over 200 businesses, public agencies, and nonprofits. Youth represented in the 2015 class were 91% youth of color, 40% youth from recent immigrant families, and 12% youth with disabilities or other significant barriers to employment. 30% spoke fluently in a language in addition to English, representing 38 different languages from around the world. Businesses, public agencies and nonprofits interested in employing interns in 2016 can find information at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/step-up\\_employer](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/step-up_employer) . STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program in partnership with AchieveMpls, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Project for Pride in Living.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Winter Conditions Study.** The City of is seeking volunteers to participate in the 2015-16 Bicycle and Pedestrian Winter Conditions Study Pilot. As part of a larger bicycle and pedestrian winter maintenance research project, the City is conducting a field study to document the winter conditions of our bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The study will include over 90 locations across Minneapolis. Volunteers will sign up to conduct 5-minute observations at locations throughout the winter. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, simply complete the form found here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uQNQ0tj3a0M6TWSzRs9YkyPIN6xYpy7kMZs6pB8DuO4/viewform>. The form provides an overview of volunteer tasks and responsibilities before giving you the opportunity to sign up. There are a limited number of volunteer spots at each location, so don't hesitate to sign up if you are interested. For more information contact Nick e at [nick.olson@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:nick.olson@minneapolismn.gov) .

**Priorities for 2016.** The new year is a good time for us in the Second Ward Office to review and reset our priorities for next year. I believe that 2016 offers enormous potential for the city to show leadership in addressing some of the most pressing and serious issues of our time, including environmental degradation and climate change; racial disparities in health, education and employment; criminal justice and police reform; the widening income gaps and shrinking middle class and much more. To see our working draft of **16 priorities for 2016**, visit our blog at [secondward.blogspot.com](http://secondward.blogspot.com). Then, let me know what you think is missing, what's there that shouldn't be and which of the ones remaining you think should be top priorities for next year.

**Bunge Site Update.** In December I was informed that Project for Pride in Living will be submitting the necessary applications to rehabilitate and improve the site of the Bunge Grain Elevators in Southeast Como for its reuse as housing. This, according to their letter, will include demolition of all or part of the

current structures. While they do not have a final plan or design for the proposed development, they will be moving ahead to complete the needed historic reviews and apply for a demolition permit soon.

**2929 University Ave SE.** The City Planning Commission has approved plans for the redevelopment of the old Kemps site near the Prospect Park Light Rail Station. If this is approved by the Zoning and Planning Committee and the full Council next year the property will be rezoned from I1, Light Industrial to the C3A Commercial Activity Center District; approved as a Planned Unit Development that will include 336 dwelling units, approximately 41,000 square feet of commercial space, including a full service grocery store, and a total of 358 parking spaces. I was glad to see that the Planning commission is recommending several conditions, including that the development shall comply with the standards for active liner uses as part of a parking garage, pedestrian improvements, a reflective roof, a pet exercise area, a recycling storage area, a water feature and participation in a district stormwater system. Also, to mitigate the reduced window area along University Ave SE, there shall be a large outdoor deck for dining and lighted art work on the wall and the parking lot shall be screened from both 4<sup>th</sup> St SE and 30<sup>th</sup> Ave SE with landscaping and there will be a permanent Nice Ride Station shall be located between the property line along 30<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and the parking lot. Additionally, at least five trees shall be planted along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, in the parking lot all spaces will be located within 50 feet of a tree as and there will at least 12 canopy trees and 117 shrubs planted on the site.

**Supportive Senior Housing for Longfellow.** In December I learned that Alliance Housing is planning to purchase 2 properties at 3001 E Lake St and 3013 30th Ave S to construct a new building to house otherwise homeless adults over 55 years of age. They will likely partner with another senior serving agency to have on-site, supportive services and management. They are in the early planning stages but have informed me that they also intend to respect the commercial corridor with some sort of office or retail-like space along the Lake Street frontage. You can learn more about Alliance Housing at [www.alliancehousinginc.org](http://www.alliancehousinginc.org)

**Rental Housing Inspections in Seward.** City staff have reported on efforts that resulted from feedback received at a meeting with Seward rental property owners in November following concerns about rental property inspections in the area. It is my understanding that inspections staff have met or connected with all property owners who asked for follow up at or before the meeting. As appropriate, they have had a lead inspector, manager or the deputy director out to look at their concerns and work with them. Additionally, they have looked at the training we are providing all inspectors, particularly new ones, and found several areas where they intend to improve and clarify expectations. They have also made initial improvements with the letters that go out to property owners and are planning more business process improvements in the future. Supervisors have also clarified expectations for inspectors around appropriate response times for voicemails and are looking at opportunities to have administrative staff assist in triaging calls where needed, as well as make sure that property owners are directly informed that their issues have been resolved. I am planning on coordinating a follow up community meeting in Seward in the next few months. I also want to note that – life safety issues aside – inspectors are **always** willing to work with property owners to make reasonable accommodations when timelines or scope of orders is a concern.

**The Blue Door U.** The Blue Door is planning to open a new restaurant at 1514 Como Ave SE and is requesting an “On Sale-Wine and Strong Beer License, Class E.” A Class E "on sale" liquor license will allow them to use radio, television, electronically reproduced music, karaoke and jukeboxes. The use of a disc jockey, live entertainment and dancing are prohibited. As part of the application the city will conduct a public hearing in the area sometime in January.

**Lawless Distilling Company.** A new Distilling Company is planning to open is Seward at 2619 S 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. The operators have requested an Off-Sale Distilled Spirits and On-Sale Liquor Cocktail Room, Class C-2. A Class C-2 will allow them to provide entertainment including amplified music with up to 3 musicians and group singing participated in by patrons. This requires a public hearing before it will be considered by the City Council and I expect one to be held in the community in January.

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** I usually hold open “Office Hours” in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time or just stop by for a visit.

First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Thursdays at Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE;

Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

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