

## Second Ward February 2020 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

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**Black History Month.** In February we are celebrating Black History Month with a resolution, events, awards and an exhibit in the Hennepin Gallery honoring the 85th anniversary of the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder, the oldest black-owned newspaper in the state. Events include a series held Thursdays at noon in the City Hall Rotunda, 350 S. Fifth St. On **February 20** we will honor the History Maker at Home award recipients. You can find the resolution and more information at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMSP-222711>.

**Winter Snow Clearing.** Please remember to keep your sidewalks free from snow and ice. This helps your neighbors safely walk to their destinations and use public transit. Find more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow/shovel/>. Help keep streets open and prevent yourself and others from getting tickets and tows when a Snow Emergency is declared by using the 612-348-SNOW hotline, the website, the lookup feature at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snowStreetLookup>, email and text alerts you can sign up for at [www2.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow\\_esubscribe](http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/snow/snow_esubscribe), and the Snow Emergency apps available to smart phone users.

**Energy Assistance Program.** The Minnesota Commerce Department is still taking applications for their Energy Assistance Program which helps lower-income Minnesotans with their heating bills. The deadline to get help with this winter's bills is June 1<sup>st</sup> and there is funding for additional households remaining. For more information go to the Department of Commerce EAP website: <https://mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp>.

**Garden Lots to Lease.** People should apply before February 14 to lease City-owned vacant lots in time for the 2020 growing season. Find more info, a map showing available lots and the garden request form at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-170166> Email [gardenlease@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:gardenlease@minneapolismn.gov) or call 612-673-2466 with any questions.

**Racial Equity Impact Tool.** In January, the Council received an update on the City's Strategic Equity Action Plan. In the report, that we learned that the department has completed the development of a Racial Equity Impact Assessment tool that can now be used to evaluate all City Council Actions. I am very glad to see this coming forward and hopeful that it will help us make better progress dismantling institutional racism in City government and ending racial disparities in Minneapolis.

**"Public Charge" Immigration Rule.** The Council passed a resolution opposing the "public charge" immigration rule, set to take effect February 24 that favors middle and upper class

people and expands the criteria that the federal government can use to deny people immigration status. The resolution recognizes that many immigrants have come to this country with few resources and yet, over time, have contributed immeasurably to our communities. Learn more at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oira/index.htm> and <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcms-p-222667.pdf>

**Redistricting and 2021 City Elections.** The Charter Commission, which is charged with drawing ward boundaries following each census, has been studying options for the next City Council election to comply with a state law that requires a new election to follow within three years of a new census. If redistricting is not completed in time for the 2021 election the City will be required to hold another election in 2023. The City cannot, however, set the Ward boundaries until after the state legislature has established its boundaries. This issue was discussed by both the Charter Commission and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee in January and February. You can find more information at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/CH2020-00003>.

**Charter Amendment Questions on the 2020 General Election Ballot.** The Charter Commission has set a framework for Charter Amendments to be considered at the 2020 General Election on November 3rd. Based on the last statewide general election in 2018, where 207,114 people voted in Minneapolis, the total number of valid signatures required for a petition in 2020 is 10,356. According to the Charter Commission timeline, the final date to receive citizen petitions for proposed charter amendments is proposed to be May 1 to allow the Charter Commission and the City Council time to prepare and submit ballot language in the months of May and June, prior to the statutory deadline in early July. You can find more details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/CH2020-00004>.

**Neighborhoods 2020.** The City Council will get an update on the Neighborhoods 2020 program at the Committee of the Whole on **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30pm. On February 24 I expect the program guidelines to be released for public comment, with final guidelines and being considered at the Public Health, Civil Rights and Community Engagement Committee on May 4 with what I hope is final Council consideration on May 14. I will be hosting, or co-hosting, a community meeting or two sometime in March to share the guidelines and gather feedback on this important City program so vital to the health and well-being of our neighborhoods and City. For more information see <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>.

**2020 Census.** The census will be happening this spring and the City is working hard to make sure everyone is counted and their residence on April 1st is recorded. In the last census (2010), children under the age of 5 were the largest undercounted group in the nation. The census helps determine which areas qualify for critical resources that many children and their families rely on. Additionally, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) rely directly on census data to allocate federal funds. Visit <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/census/> to learn more and help make the 2020 census as accurate as possible.

**Early Voting.** Early voting for the presidential primary will be offered from now through March 2, the day before the **March 3** primary. The Early Vote Center, 980 E Hennepin Ave, will be open 8:00am-4:30pm Monday-Friday and until 5:00pm on March 2. The center will also be open the last two Saturdays before the primary. People can also vote by mail and check the status of their registrations and register online at [vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/register](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/register). Pre-registration ends February 11, 21 days before the March 3 primary. Only the officially recognized Major Parties will be participating in the primary election and voters must choose only one party's ballot. For more information at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/>. To find out what will be on the ballot visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot/>.

**Closed Captions.** All City of Minneapolis broadcasts now have closed captions to help make the City's meetings and programs more accessible to residents. People can use any external device including TVs, computers, smartphones and tablets to view Council meetings with captions. Television broadcasts are at channels 14, 799 and 859 on Comcast, and channels 8001 and 8501 on CenturyLink. Viewers can find the live streams and replayed broadcasts of all meetings at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council-tv/>

**Opioid Response.** The Health Department's Opioid Team has been working over the past 9 months working to reduce opioid use and overdoses, and with partners to clean up dangerous syringe litter, create a hospital- and community-based outreach programs, support an anti-stigma campaign, and establish an opioid overdose mortality review process and secure funding. In January, the City accepted a grant of \$340,000 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to help us gather information about what services, supports and system changes will help most with prevention and treatment. The funds will also support a staff person, assist in the formation of a steering committee and allow the city to sub-contract with two community-based organizations to help distribute Naloxone, and help improve access to training and supplies for those who need them. For more information see <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5592> and <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/health/toolkit/opioidresources>.

**Food Inspection Reports Online.** Minneapolis food inspection reports are now available online and can be sorted by business name, address, location, inspection date, and business category (restaurant, grocery or institution). Reports can be looked up for individual businesses or by bulk health inspection data from the past three years. A health inspection report begins with a score of 100. Violations receive either zero, two or four points each. Health inspections are unannounced, and results are posted within seven business days of the inspection. To find the "lookup" tool and more information about health inspections see <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/health/inspections/foodinspections>

**Becoming a Child Friendly City.** In February the Council will consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States Fund for UNICEF for the Child Friendly Cities (CFCI) Initiative and authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF USA to

support the Initiative. The goal of the Child Friendly Cities Initiative is to create safe, inclusive and child responsive Cities. This MOU sets forth the terms and conditions, scope of work and responsibilities associated with piloting the CFCI framework in the City of Minneapolis. With the MOU the City is committing, over the next 5 years to develop a local action plan for children, demonstrate results of community building and child friendly governance strategies and submit final evaluation.

**Minneapolis Children and Youth Master Plan.** In February the Council will review and will consider formally supporting the Youth Master Plan that has been developed by the Youth Coordinating Board. The Plan's purpose is to rally stakeholders around a common set of values and priorities to help make Minneapolis a great city for children and youth. I am very supportive of this work and will be brought a motion to support the plan and use it to guide the work of our City's Youth Cabinet. For more information see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00157>

**Health Department Strategic Plan.** In January the Minneapolis Health Department shared the department's Strategic Plan with the Council that sets priorities and strategies to guide how the department operates in the future. The 6 goals focus on equity, communications, collaboration, funding and other resources, information technology and workforce development. For more see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00134>

**Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) Appointments.** The Council has approved the next appointments to the Community Environmental Advisory committee, including Ian Manion, from the SE Como neighborhood of Ward 2. I am grateful to Ian for his willingness to serve and to everyone who applied to be on this important advisory committee. For more details please see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5338>

**Public Health Advisory Committee Appointments.** The Council has approved reappointing 6 individuals for two-year terms to this important advisory committee. This includes KJ Starr, who will serve as the Second Ward representative and Craig Hedberg, who works in Ward 2 as a professor at the University of Minnesota-School of Public Health. I am very grateful to them, and all the appointees, for their willingness to volunteer their service in this important way, to help make Minneapolis a healthier City for all of us. For more information about this committee and all the appointees see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00067>.

**Critical Incident Response.** In February the Council will consider establishing a critical incident response workgroup tasked with developing a critical incident response to violent incidents in the City of Minneapolis.

**Violence Prevention Survey.** To help guide our violence prevention efforts please take the survey short by March 31<sup>st</sup> at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8879YY>. To get the survey in an alternative format or a different language, email [research.health@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:research.health@minneapolismn.gov).

**Surge in Auto Thefts.** In January, there were over 260 auto thefts citywide, mostly in or near downtown. This is 90% increase from the same period last and well over the 5-year average of 171. Police reported that 73% of the 262 cars thefts were taken while the vehicle was left running but unattended. For more information about this see <https://www.insidempd.com/2020/01/24/help-prevent-the-rise-of-auto-thefts-citywide-in-minneapolis/>

**Terrance Franklin.** On January 31<sup>st</sup> the City Council met in a closed session to receive information related to a lawsuit brought by Terrance Franklin's father, Walter Louis Franklin, in the wrongful-death lawsuit stemming from the 2013 death of Terrance Franklin who was shot by police officers. After being held up in a series of court proceedings for many months, the case is now heading to trial if a settlement cannot be reached soon. Terrance Franklin was killed in the basement of a south Minneapolis home after running away from officers. The suit, against two police officers and the City, contend that Franklin had surrendered before he was shot. An internal investigation did not find that the officers violated policy and the Hennepin County Attorney declined to prosecute the officers after a grand jury concluded there wasn't enough evidence.

**Animal Care & Control Breaks Record.** I was delighted to learn that in 2019 Minneapolis animal Care and Control set a new record for adoptions with 735 adoptions. That's a 60% increase over 2018. The City accepts every animal regardless of health, age, breed or behavior and when animals cannot be adopted by the general public, staff calls on the help of partner rescue groups and sanctuaries to help. In 2019 1,048 animals were transferred to rescue groups.

**Opposition to War with Iran.** The Council has unanimously approved a resolution I have authored opposing war with Iran and calling for immediate de-escalation. The resolution calls on the U.S. Senate to pass a concurrent resolution, supporting what the U.S. House has already passed, directing the president to take all necessary actions to prevent war with Iran. The City of Minneapolis opposes killing Iranian civilians, destroying Iranian cultural sites, and all other actions that would be war crimes threatened by the Trump administration. I am hopeful that other cities, counties and states will pass similar resolutions, and that the public pressure for peace will prevail. You can find the resolution here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/11921/Opposing%20War%20with%20Iran%20Resolution.pdf>

**Transportation Equity.** The Transportation and Public Works committee passed a Resolution on February 4, recognizing Transit Equity Day in the City of Minneapolis. Transit Equity Day is celebrated on February 4 because it marks the 107th birthday of Rosa Parks who helped to lead a movement to oppose injustice in the Montgomery bus system. Transit Equity Day calls attention to disparities in transit access and air quality.

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees.** The Council received the 2019 Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee Annual Report Presentation in January. Both groups provided valuable feedback over the year on many City Council decisions and policy changes. The joint presentation demonstrates a high level of cooperation between the groups, which is helpful

from my point of view. It also revealed some areas where work is needed in order to make our City a better place for pedestrians and bike riders. You can see more details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/TPW/1392>

**Small Business Program Review.** In January, the Council received the Small Business Program Review report. The review evaluated the alignment of programs with new City policies from the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic & Racial Equity Action Plan (SREAP) to better understand how the City can continue to remove barriers and support success for small-businesses. The evaluation made it clear that a better focus on equitable economic development is called for and staff laid out some recommendations and plans to outline a more detailed work plan. One change that has been made already is moving our technical assistance program (B-TAP) into the Small Business team. You can find more details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00024>

**CPED Values and Goals.** The Economic Development and Regulatory Services Committee is recommending creation of a work group to improve the City's relationship with our small business community and the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) program and practices intended to serve it. This is part of two actions that failed to pass at the Council Meeting during consideration of the reappointment of the director but were, instead, sent to committee. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00193>

**Great Streets 2020.** The Council has begun the work of updating the Great Streets Program (started in 2007) to align with the recently approved new comprehensive plan, Minneapolis 2040. In January the Council approved making any property in the following land use category eligible for Great Street funding: Neighborhood Mixed Use, Corridor Mixed Use, Community Mixed Use, Destination Mixed Use, Goods and Services Corridor, Neighborhood Office and Services and Production Mixed Use. The updated eligibility will go into effect for all Great Streets programs on Monday, February 10. Great Streets Program is categorizing the eligible areas according to their relative economic health. Staff will return to City Council later in 2020 with a recommendation for categorizing the updated eligible parcels. In the meantime, parcels that are currently eligible will remain in their current category: monitor, support, or intervene. Parcels that are newly eligible will be treated as support parcels, until such time a new categorization is official after a Council Action. For more information see [http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/cped/ba/cped\\_great\\_streets\\_home](http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/cped/ba/cped_great_streets_home)

**MPHA Executive Director.** The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) Executive Director Search Committee, that I served on, completed its work and forwarded its recommendation to the MPHA Board of Commissioners in January. After extensive review, analysis and discussion the committee recommended that the Commissioners review, interview and consider appointing Abdi Warsame as the Agency's Executive Director. On January 29<sup>th</sup> the MPHA Board voted to appoint him, and that action is now being reviewed by the federal department of Housing and Urban Development. Once that review is completed, the matter will be sent to the City Council and Mayor for possible confirmation. Council Member Warsame

will need to resign his position with the City before taking this position. If that occurs, a special election may be required so that Ward 6 residents can elect a new Council member to represent them for the remainder of this term. You can find more information at <https://mphaonline.org/about/policies-and-publications/>.

**Scattered Site Resolution.** Following a letter from the Minneapolis State Senate Delegation, and ongoing concerns from others, I drafted a resolution asking for a delay in any change in the ownership of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority's 736 units of scattered site housing in 648 properties. The change in ownership was outlined in its Section 18 Demolition and Disposition program application that was approved last year by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The resolution, which was introduced in January and was discussed but not approved on February 5 at the Housing Policy and Development Committee, states that "the best course of action at this time is to postpone any transfer of ownership related to the Section 18 application until after the approval of a new Executive Director, and demonstration by the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority that there are short- and long-term protection plans in place for the residents that currently live in these buildings, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the MPHA." It also urges the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority to help facilitate the establishment of a functioning Scattered Site Resident Council or other formal organization and process for ensuring robust engagement with residents of scattered site homes. The full resolution and report can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00137>.

**Public Housing Funding Options.** In February, I introduced a staff direction to start the process for investing more local dollars in preserving and repairing public housing. After failing to pass at committee on a 3-3 vote it will be going forward to the Council on Friday February 14. The motion, if approved, would direct City staff to work with the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority on long-term funding options to support the preservation, repair, and creation of public housing. Recommendations should include annual investment of City, County, State and Federal resources in public housing, and the term of those investments; prioritization of projects that City investments will help make possible, and protections for public housing residents that will be attached to City investments, in keeping with the adopted Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Housing Authority.

**Accessory Building Heights.** The Planning Commission has approved an ordinance amendment I am authoring that, if approved by the Council, would modestly increase the height allowed for garages and accessory dwelling units. The amendment would increase allowed garage height up to 16 feet at the roof's midpoint and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) height up to 21 feet at the midpoint, regardless of the height of the principal structure. The amendment would also give people the ability to apply for a variance to increase the height of accessory structures without the request being limited based on the height of the structure to which it is accessory. This will allow people with shorter homes to have access to additional usable space and more energy efficient building options. By allowing the construction of accessory dwelling units to be taller than the principal structures, it will increase the viability of ADUs throughout the City.

**Development Grant Applications.** The City is soliciting pre-applications for the 2019 Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) and Transit Oriented Development grants that Support development and redevelopment that links housing, jobs and services and demonstrates efficient and cost-effective use of land and infrastructure and Transit Oriented Development grants that Catalyze development around light rail, commuter rail and high frequency bus stations.

<https://metro council.org/Communities/Services/Livable-Communities-Grants> All pre-applications must be submitted using the online pre-application no later than 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 12, 2020.** City staff will evaluate proposals and make recommendations to the City Council on what applications to submit to the Metropolitan Council. More information can be found at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/cped/rfp/WCMS1P-137647>

**Upper Harbor Development Rights.** The Council has approved extending Exclusive Development Right between the City, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and United Properties until October 31, 2020. The Council also authorized staff to amend the agreement to focus on three milestones: a draft Coordinated Plan that would be delivered to the Council for comment by March 31, 2020; approval of a Coordinated Plan from the City Council and the Developer (and the MPRB with respect to park-related components) by July 29, 2020; and approval of at least two initial development agreements (one with the MPRB and another for non-park development) and any exclusive rights agreements for later phases by October 31, 2020. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5587>.

**American Indian Center Funding.** The council approved amending out legislative agenda to formally support the American Indian Center's request to the state of \$7.6 million to renovate and expand their facility on Franklin Avenue.

**Data Privacy Policy.** In February the City Council will consider adopting Data Privacy Principles indented to help us respect privacy and safeguard data that we have and collect about the people of Minneapolis. I am glad we are trying to do more to ensure that the privacy rights of individuals are balanced property with the public's right to know what their government doing. For more details please see

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/data-privacy-principles.pdf>.

**Reappointment of Director of Public Works.** The Council, with my strong support, has approved the reappointment of Robin Hutcheson as Director of Public Works for a new two-year term.

**Reappointment of Director of Civil Rights.** Following a Public Hearing on February 3 on the reappointment of Velma Korbel to the position of Director of Civil Rights, and vote of approval by the Public Health Civil Rights and Engagement Committee, the Council will vote on final approval on February 14. I plan to support the reappointment.



**Reappointment of Commissioner of Health.** The Public hearing on the reappointment of Gretchen Musicant as Commissioner of Health/Director of Health Department for a two-year term was also held on Monday February 3 at 1:30 the Public Health, Civil Rights and Community Engagement Committee. There the Committee voted unanimously to recommend her approval that will be considered at the Council on February 14.

**Reappointment of Community Planning and Economic Development Director.** Following a long hearing and discussion, the Council, with my vote of support, approved the reappointment of David Frank to the appointed position of Director of Community Planning and Economic Development and Executive Director of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency for a two-year term.

**Regulatory Services Director.** A Council Committee has recommended the reappointment of Kim Keller to the position of Director of Regulatory Services following a public hearing. I expect this recommendation to be approved on February 14<sup>th</sup> with my support.

**Reappointment of the City Assessor.** The Mayor, with support from the Executive Committee, has forwarded Patrick Todd for reappointment as the City Assessor. A hearing for his reappointment will be set in February.

**Reappointment of Emergency Management Director.** The Mayor, with support from the Executive Committee, has forwarded Barrett Lane for reappointment as Director of Emergency Management. A hearing for his reappointment will be set in February.

**Free Movies at the Convention Center.** This year the Convention Center is offering free movies at its Movies Under the Domes evenings. This is free, but tickets are required. You can get tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movies-under-the-domes-tickets-87143597847>. Doors open at 5pm and movies start at 6:30pm with Green Book on February 27, The Lion King on March 19 and Frozen on April 16.

**Fix It.** Two upcoming Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics will be held in Minneapolis this spring. At a Fix-It Clinic, you can get help repairing small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more. Upcoming clinics will be held from Noon to 4:00pm on **Saturday, March 14** at Burroughs Elementary School, 1601 W. 50th St. and from 11:30am-3:30pm on **Saturday, April 11** at Longfellow Recreation Center, 3435 36th Ave. S.

**Semi-Truck Parking Ordinance.** In January the City held a community meeting about the proposed ordinance that will, if passed, prohibit semi-truck and large commercial vehicle parking in Minneapolis, including in areas like the south Seward industrial area. The ordinance is being led by Council Members Cunningham and Jenkins, with my support and that of Council Members, Schroeder, and Reich. The meeting was on January 29th, at Matthews Center, and is part of the engagement process that will occur over the next two months. There will also be an engagement meeting with truck drivers in February, and a survey will be circulated there and

via other means to drivers. There will also be a public hearing on this ordinance, which is currently tentatively scheduled for early April.

**10th Ave Bridge Project.** The rehabilitation of the historic 10th Ave SE bridge over the Mississippi River and W River Pkwy is well underway. Road closure signs will be installed in February to announce the upcoming closure, which will start in March 2020. The bridge will be closed to all traffic including, vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians beginning in March for approximately 18 months, until the summer of 2021. Access to adjacent apartments and businesses will remain open during the construction activity. For more information on the bridge work you can contact Meseret Wolana, [meseret.wolana@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:meseret.wolana@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-3527 and visit <https://www.10thavebridge.com/>

**Dangerous Intersection at 31<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.** I share the safety concerns I have heard about this intersection. A review of crashes over the past 10 years demonstrates that it is more dangerous than most intersections in the City. My office is studying this intersection further and working to bring city traffic staff to a neighborhood meeting soon to help us all explore ways to make it safer.

**Dorman Area Street Resurfacing.** The Council has approved moving forward with the resurfacing project in the “Dorman” area of Cooper this summer. The project is not expected to start until the sewer project is completed near 42<sup>nd</sup> on 29<sup>th</sup> and further study is given to including some pedestrian improvements to the crossing on 28<sup>th</sup> St at 38<sup>th</sup> Ave connecting to Bracket Park.

**4<sup>th</sup> Street SE Resurfacing.** In February, the Council approved the funding for this street resurfacing project north University Ave in Prospect Park.

**Paul Zerby.** I was proud to author a resolution honoring the life and contributions of my predecessor on the Council, Paul Zerby. Paul served the people of the Second Ward for four years, between 2002 and 2006. He was community leader in the Prospect Park neighborhood and made significant contributions to the whole city. Some of those accomplishments include our first-ever Living Wage Ordinance, prohibiting indoor smoking in bars and restaurants, and reestablishing and improving the Civilian Review Authority. You can read the resolution here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/3197/Paul%20Zerby%20Honorary%20Resolution.pdf>

**Art and Architecture/Wallis Development.** The Planning Commission has approved the proposed changes to the Art and Architecture Planned Unit Development project (now called the Wallis), at 3326, 3338, and 3350 University Ave SE. The developers applied to amend the previously approved Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit for a Planned Unit Development in order to add additional dwelling units. The amendments all relate to changes to the site plan, including increasing the number of dwelling units while slightly reducing the height and massing on the tower. Visit <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Boards/Meetings/cpc> for the agenda and staff report. It is my understanding that there is a lawsuit still pending that involves this project but

that the development team is working toward a groundbreaking in mid to late April. The Planning Commission action could be appealed to the Zoning and Planning Committee of the Council.

**Glendale Critical Parking Area.** After working with staff and hearing the views of residents at a Glendale resident meeting, I am prepared to support changing the Glendale critical parking area to further restrict parking so that there is no parking from 8:00am-10:00pm daily, 7 days a week, except by permit, if I get letters from the Prospect Park Association and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority indicating their support for the change.

**Glendale Historic Designation Study.** This month the Designation Study for the Glendale Townhomes Historic District and staff recommendations will be submitted to the Planning Commission for review and then on **March 3** the designation is expected to be considered by the Historic Preservation Commission following a public hearing. While the study found that the areas is historically significant based on 2 criteria (#1 - association with significant events and #5 exemplifies an innovative or unique design), it also concludes that the materials, workmanship and building design have not retained its historic integrity. I expect the full study to be available for review soon and encourage those who are interested to review it and share their opinions and feedback with the Historic Preservation Commission.

**Towerside Blue/Green Framework.** I was very happy to learn that the Mississippi Water Management Organization is partnering with the Capitol Region Watershed District to help fund and develop a Towerside “Blue/Green Framework. To do this they will be studying the existing underground system of storm water drainage and, hopefully, identify opportunities for above-ground storm water reuse and habitat improvements in a long range master plan that can be used to help guide redevelopment in the area. The opportunity to “daylight” some of the old buried ponds and bridal veil streams has been acknowledged for decades and this could be one step towards realizing that vision.

**Towerside District Energy.** The Towerside Innovation District has voted to apply to the City to use City financing (through the City’s Common Bond Fund) to build an exciting new Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage district energy system in the area north of the Transitway. I am enthusiastically supportive of this concept, which I see as one of the only ways the City can meet our aggressive climate goals. Natural gas for heating is now the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from Minneapolis, more than electricity and transportation. This kind of district energy system is one of the only ways we can electrify and decarbonize heating for large new developments like those proposed by Wall Companies in this area. This is also entirely in keeping with the status of the area as the City’s first declared Innovation District, and in the other district systems (like district stormwater) that are already in place. You can read more about this idea here: <https://energynews.us/2020/01/29/midwest/proposal-would-heat-cool-minneapolis-food-hall-apartments-with-groundwater/>

**Trinity Apartments Rehabilitation.** The Housing committee is recommending approval of the using \$12.5 million in Tax Exempt Multifamily Housing Revenue Entitlement Bonds to support

renovations to improve and preserve 120 Section 8 supported affordable units of senior housing at the Trinity Apartments project at 2800 31st St E. Built in 1978, the building will get improvements to its plumbing, mechanical, electrical and security systems, as well as to the roof; patio, community rooms, hallway spaces, parking area and yards. For more see <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00162>.

**Liquor License Renewals.** In January the Council granted liquor license renewals in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward to the Gateway Café at 200 Oak St, Legendary Spice at 317 Huron SE, Tea House Restaurant at 2425 University, the Hi-Lo Diner at 4020 E Lake St, Merlin’s Rest at 3601 E Lake, Lawless Distillery at 2619 28<sup>th</sup> Ave S, the Longfellow Grill at 2990 West River Parkway, Town Talk Diner at 2707 E Lake, Profile Event Center at 2630 University Ave, Surley’s at 520 Malcolm Ave SE and a Beer license at Metro Petro at 2700 University.

**East Lake Special Service District.** The Council has approved the appointment of Second Ward, Cooper neighborhood resident Elizabeth Frost to complete a term ended in December to serve on the board of the East lake Special Service District. I am grateful to Elizabeth for her willingness to volunteer in this way to serve the community.

**Stadium Village Special Service District.** The council has waived the residency requirement and approved the appointment of Chuck Goldberg, General Manager Graduate Hotel, to serve on this special service district board.

**Banaadir Middle School Playground.** The City Council will likely approve the new proposed playground for the charter school at 2526 27th Ave S in the Seward neighborhood later this month.

**City Update Sign-Up.** You can subscribe to get City updates on a variety of topics by email or text at <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new>

**Jobs with the City.** The City has several job openings among more than 900 different job types. To learn more and view current openings see <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/jobs>

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** My Community “Office Hours” in the ward occur on 4 Monday mornings each month from 10:00 to 11:30am. Please feel free to call the office to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

First Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St;

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

Third Mondays at Simpls at 712 Washington Ave S, and

Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.