

Second Ward April 2020 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

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

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Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic. The City is working hard to protect and support all of our residents and businesses during this challenging time. Basic City services, including delivering safe drinking water, garbage and recycling services, as well as 311, 911, police and fire services continue as before. Robin, Nancy and I are doing most of our work remotely but are still checking phone messages and emails several times a day. As the Council, Mayor and all our staff are working to promote the public good, I welcome your ideas to help us fulfill our responsibilities as your city government. Please continue to practice social distancing, stay home as much as possible, wash your hands, sanitize surfaces, bags and clothing, stay at least six feet apart, and see resources and updates below and at

<http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/> for more information. And if you need more support in navigating the different resources or have more detailed questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office. Email cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov and/or robin.garwood@minneapolismn.gov.

State of Local Emergency. On March 16 Mayor Frey declared a state of local emergency in the City of Minneapolis and on the 19th the Council approved and extended the declaration. You can read it here: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/WCMSP-223263>. The City has also activated its Incident Command System (ICS) in response to COVID-19 and the City Health Department has assumed Incident Command of this response for the City, as called for in the City's Emergency Operations Plan. The Minnesota Health Department remains the lead response agency in Minnesota and we are working closely with them. They have set up a COVID 19 hotline at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903 that is operating from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

City Meetings and Events. To minimize the risk of exposure or potential spread of COVID-19, the City has canceled most of its public hearings and meetings for most appointed boards and commissions. The City Council is temporarily reorganizing itself into a Business, Inspections and Zoning Committees made of 6 Council Members, including myself; a Policy & Government Oversight Committee, made up of all Council Members. The full City Council will meet weekly on Friday mornings at 9:30am for the time being. The public is encouraged to monitor meetings remotely via broadcast or live-streaming available at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/city-council-tv/>. For the most current information about the City's public hearings, meetings and events, visit lims.minneapolismn.gov.

Hate Speech and Racist Actions. The Police Chief is reporting an increase in racist incidents and attacks across the country and locally that appear to be fueled by anti-Asian racism. My office, our Mayor, Police Chief and your City government stands in solidarity with all our Asian

American residents, businesses and visitors and condemn these actions. Please watch and share this joint statement from Police Chief and Mayor at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis/videos/702638270544089/>, and call 311 to report discriminatory action to the Civil Rights Department and 911 in an emergency.

Housing and Evictions. As you have likely heard, the Governor has placed a moratorium on evictions throughout the state. City staff have been working with our partners, especially Hennepin County, to serve the unsheltered homeless population. On April 3rd the Mayor's Gap Funding Plan includes housing provisions and some assistance for renters unable to pay rent due to the pandemic. Please see more details below.

Impacts on and Support for Local Businesses. The City has set up a Frequently Asked Questions page specifically for local businesses at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/businesses-employees/business>. Many businesses have been required to close and others to limit operations. During the state of emergency, the City will be waiving all licensing late fees for food, taxi, liquor, wine, beer, or catering licenses. The City has also worked collaboratively to establish "Food Pickup Zones" for businesses that do not currently have their own off-street parking. We have also established the COVID-19 Emergency Mental Health Fund and are expanding Business Technical Assistance to provide enhanced services and direct support in targeted areas. There is now a standing conference call and webinar every Friday morning at 11am for City officials to answer questions from small businesses. More details about a gap funding proposal for small businesses is included below.

Gap Funding Package. On April 3, Mayor Frey shared a gap funding package that would provide up to \$5 million to assist residents and businesses who have suffered financial losses due to the pandemic. This includes \$2 million in emergency housing assistance payments to help low income residents who have lost income due to the crisis and \$1 million in our Stable Homes Stable Schools initiative for a total of \$3 million in gap funding for housing. It also includes a renewed focus on preserving "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing," and preventing it from being bought up by new owners who would dramatically increase rents. Additionally, targeted business relief programs reflect will offer \$2.2 million in city funds. This includes new forgivable no-interest loans of \$5,000 or \$10,000 for companies with 20 employees or fewer and people who are self-employed. The City will also be offering larger, \$50,000 or \$75,000 no interest loans. Borrowers must demonstrate a financial impact from the COVID-19 emergency and have 20 or fewer employees and/or \$1 million or less in annual revenue. While I am generally supportive of the programs, I am concerned that the geographic restrictions on the forgivable micro loans will mean some of the small businesses who need it most and may not qualify for any state or federal assistance will be excluded. To be eligible, businesses must be located in a designated area of Minneapolis, such as Cultural Districts, Promise Zone, Green Zone, or Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACP50):

http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms_p-201874.pdf. I would prefer a program designed to get the help to the businesses that need it

most - small businesses that can't get help from other government sources, regardless of where they are located.

COVID-19 Pandemic Community Response. The community is coming together to ease the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable in our city. The Minneapolis Public Schools have set up meal pick-ups for children during school closures:

https://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/meal_sites. A host of restaurants around the region are making free lunches available: <https://kstp.com/coronavirus/list-of-restaurants-offering-free-lunches-while-schools-are-closed/5674954/>. Minneapolis Public Works has indefinitely halted water shutoffs. Xcel Energy has suspended disconnecting service from any customers until further notice. If you have difficulty paying your electricity bill, contact them to set up a plan that works for you at <http://spr.ly/60151s1OZ>, or call 1-800-895-4999. CenterPoint Energy has likewise suspended disconnections. If you have questions about gas service or bills, contact CenterPoint at 1-800-245-2377. I am thankful to Governor Walz for making unemployment insurance more quickly available to the employees who will be impacted and prohibiting evictions during the emergency. Certified Metro Mobility riders can now order groceries and goods online from local stores and have Metro Mobility pick them up and deliver for free: <https://metro council.org/News-Events/Transportation/Newsletters/Let-Metro-Mobility-pick-up-your-grocery-order-2020.aspx>.

Legal Assistance. The City has contracts with Home Line and Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid to provide residents, especially renters and landlords, with legal advice. Legal Aid has created a new page on www.lawhelpmn.org with updates on court cases and advice for people with questions about housing, safety, health, unemployment benefits, etc. during this time. Here is a link to the COVID-19 page: <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/covid-19-other-planning-ahead-topics/coronavirus-covid-19>. Individual tenants can also call Legal Aid to get information about their specific situation at (612) 334-5970. Home Line provides free & confidential legal advice to all Minneapolis renters. Tenants can get free legal advice at HOME Line's tenant hotline at 612 728-5767 or email questions to Home Line housing attorneys at <https://homelinemn.org/e-mail-an-attorney/>. Home Line ofrece servicios en español. Para Español, llame al 612-255-8870. HOME Line waxay bixisaa adeeg ku baxa Afka-Soomaaliga. Af-Soomaali wac 612-255-8860. Peb lub koom haum HOME Line muaj neeg txhais lus Hmoob. Hais lus Hmoob, Hu 612-255-7104.

MNSure Emergency Enrollment Period. MNSure is offering a special enrollment period (SEP) for qualified individuals who are currently without insurance in response to the potential growth of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. This SEP will allow uninsured individuals 30 days to enroll in health insurance coverage through MNSure. Learn more at <https://www.mnsure.org/new-customers/enrollment-deadlines/special-enrollment/covid19-sep.jsp>

Support for People Experiencing Homelessness. The County has moved 231 people experiencing homelessness into alternative accommodations. This includes all seniors who wanted to move (157) as well as 74 high-risk residents as identified by Healthcare for the

Homeless. Hennepin County is opening another site soon for people who have tested positive for COVID or who are waiting results of a test. Hennepin Health Care for the Homeless and other outreach workers have created a Mobile Outreach Drop-In Center at Peavey Park (Franklin/Chicago) from 1-3pm daily. There are basic resources and supplies available for street outreach teams and individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as access to basic medical information and services. All of this is being done with safe physical distancing. Volunteers working on homeless response are also exempt from the Stay at Home order. The County is also working to keep single adult shelter spaces open 24 hours per day and Simpson, Our Savior's and two shelters operated by St. Stephen's have moved to 24 hour/day operations. Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center has gotten permits to block off Currie Ave, set up tents (with the set-up promoting social distancing), have Mad Dad's on site to help support residents and keep them safe. City staff have identified \$100,000 of federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding that can be repurposed and deployed quickly to assist with staffing and service needs in the shelters. City staff are working on getting the contract approved this week. The County has provided an additional \$113,000 to emergency shelters for staffing and cleaning needs.

Resources for Seniors. My colleague Jeremy Schroeder's office has compiled a very helpful list of resources for Minneapolis seniors. You can find it here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/28293e5>

Southeast Seniors Updates. Southeast Seniors is seeking donations of household items and cleaning products for their clients and volunteers. The most urgently needed items include toilet paper, cleaning wipes, disposable gloves, hand sanitizer and masks. If you have items that you'd like to donate, please call 612-331-2302 or email info@seseniors.org. Financial contributions are also appreciated and can be made online through Network for Good or via check made out to Southeast Seniors and mailed to 2828 University Avenue SE Suite 200 Minneapolis MN 55414. They have postponed all group events through at least May 13, but continue to provide rides for essential medical appointments, phone visits, resource coordination, and delivery of groceries and household items. Staff are available from 9 am-4 pm Monday-Thursday and from 9 am-1 pm on Friday.

Impact of COVID-19 on City Finances. On March 24 the Council received a report on potential financial impacts to the City government due to the pandemic. While our current finances are stable and our "cash position is strong," we are anticipating significant loses in revenue and unforeseen additional expenses during the short term. We are also working to prepare for a potential longer-term impact should a larger economic recession occur. We are seeing short term revenue loses in the millions of dollars in the areas of the convention center operations, local sales taxes; parking, permit and license fees; interest earnings; and, utility charges. We are also preparing for increased demands on our funds to cover costs of Personal Protective Equipment for some staff, employee sick time, our medical self-insurance, workman's compensation and overtime costs that might result the pandemic. At least partially in response to these concerns, on April 3rd the City instituted a temporary hiring freeze. You can find some information about this at <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00402>

Support for artists. Artists of all kinds are among the hardest hit in by the economic impacts of COVID 19. Several groups in the state have come together to offer support to artists in this difficult time, including the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association, Springboard for the Arts, and several national organizations. If you are an artist or know an artist who is struggling financially due to the COVID crisis, please visit <http://artsmn.org/coronavirus/>, or contact my office for more resources.

Financial Assistance From Foundations. A number of local foundations are stepping up to help those hardest hit by this crisis. The Minneapolis Foundation will be making over \$500,000 in grants with \$10,000 minimum per grant funding. The application will be here: <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/actions-were-taking-to-navigate-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>. Headwaters Foundation for Justice is also making grants, and you can find out more at <https://Headwatersfoundation.org>. The Otto Bremer Trust is making grants via <https://ottobremer.org/emergency-fund>. The United Way is making additional grants to its existing nonprofit grantees, and you can find out more at <https://www.gtcuw.org/>. There will be upcoming briefings for nonprofits and foundations, on Wednesdays at 11:30 for foundations and Mondays at 11:30 for nonprofits. You can register at <https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/events> for nonprofits sessions and <https://mcf.org/events/upcoming> for foundation sessions.

Stay At Home Order. To slow the spread of COVID-19 across the state, Gov. Tim Walz directed Minnesotans to stay at home and limit movements outside of their home beyond essential needs. Please call 311 (NOT 911) if you have concerns about the voluntary compliance of the stay-at-home order involving a business, organization or a group gathering in a public space. We will route all calls to the appropriate City staff for potential action. You can learn more about the Police's approach to enforcement of this at <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/WCMSP-223375>.

Other COVID 19 Resources:

Governor's Executive Orders <https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp>;

University of Minnesota <https://safe-campus.umn.edu/public-health-alerts>;

Mpls Public School https://health.mpls.k12.mn.us/coronavirus_disease_2019_covid-19.html;

Hennepin County <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/emergencies/covid-19>;

MN Department of Health (MDH)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

MDH non-English websites:

Spanish: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/spanish.html>

Somali: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/somali.html>

Hmong: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/hmong.html>

Minnesota Housing:

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1520221592207&pagename=External%2FPage%2FEXTStandardLayout>

The Census. By April 1, every household should have received instructions in the mail about how to participate in the 2020 Census. People can complete the census online, by mail or by phone. Census results are used to allocate seats and draw district lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and local governments and to target federal assistance. In Minneapolis people can also be counted by visiting one of several designated locations, called Trusted Spaces, throughout the city. Trusted Spaces (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/census/TrustedSpaces>) will have people from the immediate community on hand who can help people understand the census. Go to <http://www.wecountminneapolis.org/> for more information. For households who do not complete the form, Census workers are likely to follow up this summer with visits to get forms completed in person. To support this work, the Council recently based a resolution making it clear that state and federal law (Title 13 U.S. Code § 223) authorizes Census Bureau employees' access to all multi-unit housing structures to ensure an accurate count of everyone in Minneapolis.

Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines. While community meetings have been canceled and the comment period has been extended to July 15, the City is still seeking feedback on the draft Neighborhoods 2020 guidelines on future neighborhood programming and funding. The guidelines are generally consistent with the Neighborhoods 2020 Framework resolution I co-authored in May. I appreciate that funding is proposed to be divided in a Citywide Neighborhood Network Fund, Equitable Engagement Fund, Partnership Engagement Fund, and Collaboration and Shared Resources Fund but I have two specific concerns. First, I prefer the base funding amount of \$25,000 per neighborhood that was approved by the Council in May to the reduction recommended in the draft guidelines. I am concerned that reducing the base funding to \$10,000 will be insufficient to support the healthycitywide network of neighborhood organizations that help ensure that all residents have a local neighborhood association where they can engage and mobilize to address issues and opportunities within their geographic areas. Second, I am concerned that the Equitable Engagement Funding Formula is not transparent, clear and appropriate. Using the Areas of Concentrated Poverty and Cost Burden Households figures as determined using U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey seems reasonable, but I want the formula to be understood and the data it uses to be reliable and accessible to everyone. I am unclear on what the "gentrification" measures refers to and how it is measured. To see the draft guidelines and more information on Neighborhoods 2020 and its process see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>. People can comment at Neighborhoods2020@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-3737 and at Neighborhood and Community Relations, 105 Fifth Avenue South, Suite 425, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Redistricting Ward Boundaries. Following the 2020 Census the state and then the City will need to approve new ward boundaries. The Council and Charter Commission are both working to

find a way to coordinate City election to accommodate redistricting and also comply with the Charter and State law. So far, the council has approved a policy-objective framework regarding redistricting plans and has recommended redistricting alternatives and associated legislative changes. To see the City's legal analysis and proposed legislative actions for redistricting see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00264>

For policy and recommended alternatives see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00264>. The Charter Commission has recommended charter changes that the Council will consider that will accommodate the state requirement for at least one and possibly two shorter Council terms. See <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00438> to learn more about these amendments.

Climate and Health Resilience Hub Pilot. The Little Earth 2019 Climate and Health Resilience Hub Pilot project that was done by the Minneapolis Health Department, the Minneapolis Sustainability Division and Little Earth of United Tribes has concluded. This pilot attempted to improve community resilience to climate change disasters through partnership development, housing infrastructure improvements, renewable energy planning and community training. I was pleased to see so much accomplished and hope that Little Earth will continue this work and move forward with a proposed solar project, and that the model can be replicated elsewhere in the city. To learn more, see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00243>

Violence Prevention Plan and Survey. The Office of Violence Prevention is conducting a strategic planning process that is outlined at <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00242>. You can help by sharing your opinion on the issue of violence prevention and intervention and helping others share their's. Please complete the survey that will be online through the end of April at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8879YY> to inform the plan that will likely be approved and launched later this summer.

Transgender Equity Council Appointments. The Council has approved new appointments to the Transgender Equity Council including Grant Berg, from Ward 2. Grant lives in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, is student at Augsburg College and works for OutFront Minnesota. I am grateful for his willingness to serve and look forward to working with him.

UNICEF 'Child Friendly City.' The City Council has authorized a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that would make Minneapolis become the first city in the United States to become one of UNICEF's officially recognized Child Friendly Cities. To achieve the status as a child-friendly city, we will conduct a child rights analysis of statistics, local policies, laws and academic research relevant to the situation and well-being of children and develop a Child Friendly Cities Initiative action plan. The first cycle of recognition is five years after signing a memorandum of understanding. You can learn more at <https://childfriendlycities.org/>.

Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging Appointments. The Council has approved the new appointments to the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging of two second ward residents:

Thomas Weist, from the Southeast Como area, and Lenora Raasch, who lives in the Cooper neighborhood. <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00214>

2020 Open Streets. The City has approved the Open Streets events for next year as follows. The four closest to Ward 2 will occur on Sunday, June 21 on Minnehaha Avenue from Lake Street to 46th; on July 12 on Franklin Avenue from Portland to 27th Ave S.; on July 26 on East Lake Street from Elliot Avenue to 42nd Avenue; and on August 2 in Northeast.

Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. In March the City released a draft of the Minneapolis Transportation Action Plan. Once a final draft is approved by the Council, this plan will guide future planning, design, and implementation of transportation projects for the next 10 years. People are invited to review the draft plan and provide feedback at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/gompls>. You can also attend an upcoming online open house to learn about the plan and interact in real time from 6-7pm on Wednesday, **April 8** and 4:30-5:30pm Monday, **April 13**, accessed through the City of Minneapolis Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2681982982038427/>). While I may be seeking some small changes to the plan and am open to considering others, I believe this draft offers a very promising framework for the future with a real focus on low-carbon or no-carbon transportation options. Learn more at go.minneapolismn.gov. The public comment period is currently open through April 22.

Route 2 Signal Priority. The City has partnered with Metro Transit for the installation of transit signal priority along local bus Route 2. The City will install transit signal priority equipment at up to 13 intersections to allow buses a greater opportunity to travel through a traffic signal on a green light or reduce the wait time at a red light. If successful, this strategy will likely be extended to other bus routes. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00330>.

Scooter Sharing. The Council has approved licensing two vendors for shared motorized foot scooter operations for the 2020 scooter program with strengthened regulations in place to address concerns raised about last year's program. The program will run through March 31, 2021, with an optional extension through December 31 of 2021, for up to 2,500 scooters. The 2020 program will require scooters to be parked upright using a kickstand, and either locked to a public bike rack or signpost, or parked in a designated scooter parking zone. I supported this but am interested in seeing scooters be required to use docking stations and limiting operators to one applicant a year. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00342>

Yard Waste Collection. The City will begin collecting leaves, brush and other yard trimmings on April 6. Properly prepared yard waste set out next to garbage carts by 6 am on garbage day will be picked up. Yard waste can be put in reusable containers, compostable paper bags or bundled with string or twine. Please don't rake leaves into the street. For more specifics see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm> or call 612-673-2917.

Speed Limits. Minneapolis and Saint Paul have started lowering speed limits on local streets to reduce crashes, injuries and deaths. New speed limits will be 20 mph for local residential streets; 25 mph for larger, arterial city-owned streets; and 30 or more for a few city-owned streets. By Minnesota law, cities do not have authority to change speed limits on county and state highways and roads. So, speed limits on these streets will not change. New, lower 25 mph speed limits on individual streets will go into effect as soon as the signs appear. Once the busier streets have signs, the cities will then install “gateway signs” at entry points in both cities, indicating the citywide speed limit is 20 mph unless otherwise posted. Once the gateway signs are installed, the 20-mph speed limit on local residential streets will be in effect. We will generally not post 20 mph signs on local residential streets and expect to complete the sign installation by this fall. Reducing speed limits is one of the key strategies in the Minneapolis Vision Zero Action Plan, which outlines key steps for the next three years to advance the City’s goal of ending traffic deaths and injuries on City streets by 2027. Learn more about the speed limit changes at visionzerompls.com and stpaul.gov/speedlimits.

I-94 Resolution. The Council unanimously passed a resolution in response to the I-94/252 expansion project, strongly opposing adding lanes on roadways within Minneapolis. It states that any project developed by MnDOT should include the following components: A MnPASS direct connection into downtown as part of the 2023 construction project while maintaining 14’ shoulders along the entire corridor for transit priority until MnPASS and the direct connection is completed; improving the Dowling Avenue bridge for all users as part of the work that will be done in the area, including enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities with protection from motor vehicles, pedestrian scale lighting and conversion of the motor vehicle portion to a three-lane cross section, such that the Dowling Avenue bridge can serve as a welcoming park entrance for the community; and right-sizing University and Central avenues in northeast Minneapolis, as modeling indicates that fewer cars will use these roads after Highway 252 is expanded. It further supports transit investment in North Minneapolis, including but not limited to the planned D Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit project. It further supports Bus Rapid Transit on this route. I was very supportive of this resolution. I think the City should take a strong and clear position against any freeway expansion that is not for the purpose of increasing and improving transit service, especially a freeway expansion that will have a negative impact on the air quality in some of the most overburdened communities in our city.

K-Mart. The City Council has voted to spend \$9.1 million to terminate the Kmart store’s leases to has allowed them to use the City-owned land at 10 W. Lake St for their store. The lease, that was schedule to expire on 2053, will end by June 30 this year. This will allow us to redevelop the site and reopen Nicollet Avenue. The City plans to demolish the structures on the site later this year and work with the community on a new street and a new development vision for the site in the months ahead.

City Trees. This spring the City will sell roughly 2,000 young trees for \$25 each to Minneapolis property owners. Those people who haven’t gotten a tree in the City Trees program in the last three years will get a chance to order a tree earlier. The 22 varieties available this year include large species, flowering trees and several kinds of fruit trees. Comparable trees cost about \$125

at a nursery. Trees must be picked up May 16, 17 or 18 at the City of Minneapolis Impound Lot. Order your tree at <https://mpls-tree-sale.myshopify.com/>.

Police to Use Vouchers. After analyzing equipment violation data and participating in the Lights On! program for the past year, the Police have announced that they will no longer ticket drivers for defective lights and turn signals. Instead they will hand out vouchers to help pay for repairs. "Lights On!" is a Twin Cities metro area program funded through Microgrants that has the potential to help get these simple safety repairs made quickly. You can learn more at <https://www.lightsonus.org/>.

Terrace Franklin Settlement. After meeting in closed sessions in January and February, the City Council unanimously approved settling the wrongful-death lawsuit brought by Terrace Franklin's father, Walter Louis Franklin for \$795,000. This stems from the 2013 police shooting death of Terrace Franklin that was scheduled to go to trial this spring. Terrace Franklin was killed after being pursued by several officers into a South Minneapolis basement. While an internal investigation did not find that the officers violated policy and the Hennepin County Attorney declined to prosecute the officers, the suit contended that Franklin had surrendered before he was shot. City policy and police practices have changed significantly since this deadly and likely preventable incident where a young man was killed, and police officers suffered life-changing injuries.

Investing in Public Housing. The Council has approved a staff direction I authored that will start the process for investing more local dollars in preserving and repairing public housing. The motion directs 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 terms, prioritization and protections for public housing residents that will be attached to City investments.

Homeownership Programs. The Council is redesigning our package of programs aimed at promoting homeownership in Minneapolis, especially in light of the news city goals and the policies outlined in the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The City has conducted a series of community meetings and study session to explore how to best use our resources to address home ownership disparities, prevent displacement and support efforts for individuals secure affordable housing while building intergenerational wealth through home ownership, create permanent affordable housing and encourage more sustainable building practices. The materials from that session are available at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00270>.

MPHA Executive Director Ward 6 Special Election. Following a waiver from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development to allow an elected official to serve and director of a public housing authority, the City Council has approved The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) Board's appointment of Abdi Warsame as their new Executive Director. With this action, Abdi Warsame needed to resign his position with the City and a special election will be scheduled so that Ward 6 residents can elect a new Council member to

represent them for the remainder of this term. On Friday the Council approved setting a special election to fill the unexpired term on **August 11**. For details see <http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00429>.

Missing Middle Affordable Housing. Late last month, the Council approved using \$1,675,000 to support three proposals that will provide 50 total units, 28 of which will be affordable. This includes the affordable homeownership Leef Townhomes Project at 164 Cedar Lake Rd N / 203-213 James Ave N, where 18 Units will be constructed through a partnership with City of Lakes Community Land Trust; the Lyndale Terrace City-owned site at 623 24th Ave N / 2316 – 2318 Lyndale Ave N, where 13 unites of Rental Apartment/Townhome will be construction through a partnership with Better Futures MN, Betty’s Healing Home; and, the Twin Cities Home Soleil on 34th project at 5200 34th Ave S, where 19 rental units with one ground floor commercial space will be constructed in a partnership with the Assistance Council for Veterans. See <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/5635> for more details.

2020 Assessment Report. The Assessor's Office has completed the 2020 property assessments and began mailing market value notices to property owners in March regarding property taxes payable in 2021. This included the assessment of nearly 125,000 and is based on sales that occurred between October 2018 and September 2019. People can appeal their valuation. If you have questions or concerns I recommend you contact the Assessor's Office to discuss them by calling 311 or (612) 673-3000, faxing (612) 673-3538 or emailing Assessor@minneapolismn.gov. Additionally, you may wish to file a formal appeal. The City of Minneapolis Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) hears appeals from property owners who disagree with the assessor's estimated market value of their property. The LBAE is made up of three or more members, with at least one being an appraiser, realtor or other person familiar with property valuations in the City of Minneapolis. They are scheduled to meet to hear appeals on May 6 and May 13. You can find more information about how the assessments are done at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor/propertytaxes>, and how to appeal at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor/marketvalues/LBAE>.

Affordable Housing Property Tax Reduction 4d Incentive Program. The Council has approved revisions to our 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program that will add a goal of supporting new construction projects that exceed the City’s minimum affordability requirements under the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance. We will also allow single room occupancy (SRO) housing, rooming houses and group homes to participate in the program, prohibit short term rentals and require that owners verify tenant incomes for any subleases. To learn more about this program see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/WCMSP-214366>

Housing Policy & Development Committee 2020 Work Plan. The Committee and Council has approved the Housing Committee work plan. This can, and likely will, be altered over time to reflect changing needs over time, but also sets up an aggressive aspirational framework for the year. Please check it out at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/12730/HPD%20Committee%202020%20Work%20Plan.pdf>.

2020 Housing Consolidated Plan Allocations Increased. The Council has amended our the 2020 budget by increasing the following project/program allocations to account for the larger than expected federal grant amounts: Lead Reduction by \$48,323 for a new budget of \$109,323 and Multi-Family/Affordable Housing by \$300,000 for a new budget of \$3,720,000; Affordable Housing Trust Fund by \$723,395 for a new budget of \$1,939,395; Housing for people with HIV by \$62,990 for a new budget of \$1,682,990; and the Emergency Shelter Grant Programs by \$47,926 for a new budget of 732,926. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00372>

2020-24 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan. The City is preparing to submit the Five-Year 2020-24 Consolidated Plan/Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on April 15, 2020. The Plan is an application submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDs (HOPWA) grants. It includes homeless needs assessment, a housing market analysis, strategies and city priorities for use of the federal funds. The current draft is available at all Minneapolis public libraries, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and http://www.minneapolismn.gov/grants/grants_consolidated-plan.

Elliot Twins Project Financing. The Council has authorized the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to undertake the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority's (MPHA) Elliot Twins housing project at 1212 9th St S and 1225 8th St S, and authorized a loan of \$2.3 million to assist with this major renovation project. To ensure that MPHA's commitment to providing quality affordable housing low-income households is maintained with public ownership and control, MPHA will be required to maintain ownership of the land and lease it to the Elliot Twins entity that will technically own the building. Land use restrictions will also be recorded against the property. Additional protections for residents are also in place. More details can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00357>.

The Way Home. The City, through our Housing Director, Andrea Brennan, and her staff, have released a very informative progress report with a Minneapolis Affordable Housing Continuum based on work done so far this term to secure safe, dignified and affordable housing for all Minneapolis residents. Please check them out at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2020-00354>.

Accessory Building Heights. The Council has unanimously passed an ordinance amendment that I authored to allow accessory structures like garages to be slightly taller. The purpose of this amendment is to give people, even people whose homes are fairly short, more flexibility to have usable space in their garages for things like home studios and workshops. The amendment also made it possible to build a slightly taller Accessory Dwelling Unit.

City Coordinator. The Mayor and the Executive Committee are recommending that Mark Ruff be appointed as City Coordinator. He has been serving as interim coordinator for several

months. A public hearing has been set for **April 8** at 1:30pm on his reappointment, which must be approved by the Council

Help Minneapolis Animal Care and Control. Minneapolis Animal Care and Control is regularly called by first responders to remove pets from homes when their owner is hospitalized and there is no one to care for them. During this pandemic, pets will sadly be victims of this crisis as their family members fall ill and need hospitalization. MACC is limited to how many animals can be cared for at the shelter and for how long they can stay. This makes it very important for owners to designate a caretaker should they become ill and unable to care for their pets. For more about this, please go here: <https://youtu.be/c61fygN2dE>

Century Link Cable Franchise Ends. The City has ended its cable franchise agreement with Century Link. This occurred after it became clear that Century Link had no intention or capacity to comply with its 2015 cable franchise agreement requirement to serve all City residents with cable service within five years. According to the approved settlement agreement CenturyLink will cease providing cable service in the City by June 30. Any facilities to provide exclusively cable service must be removed, and any damage caused to the right-of-way by these facilities must be promptly repaired at CenturyLink's cost. CenturyLink must provide notice to its subscribers of its intent to terminate its cable service. They will continue to provide phone and internet services over its network.

The 10th Avenue SE Bridge is closed to all traffic (vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians) at the end of March 2020 for major rehabilitation and will be closed with detours in effect for approximately 18 months, until next Summer, 2021. For regular updates and more details visit <https://www.10thavebridge.com/>.

Parkway Closure to Motor Vehicles. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is temporarily closing sections of Cedar Lake, West River Parkway and Lake of the Isles Parkway to allow more space for trail users to follow social distancing practices and limit the spread of COVID-19. The closures will remain in place at least until the end of the Emergency Executive Order on Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5pm. West River Parkway's northbound driving lane and adjacent parking lots will be closed between 46th Ave and 11th Ave (closure connects to existing closure from 11th Ave to Plymouth Ave). Parkway roads will be dedicated to pedestrian traffic in both directions, bike paths will remain bike paths in their current direction, if applicable and walking paths will be dedicated to two-way pedestrian traffic.

Bridge Number 9. The City has entered into an agreement with the University to repair this important converted railroad bridge which carries pedestrian and bicycle traffic over the Mississippi River between the University of Minnesota East and West Bank campuses in Minneapolis. The City is currently scheduled to make priority repairs to Piers No. 6 and 7 of the bridge during the 2020 construction season and for Pier 5 in 2021. In order to do this, work the University will temporarily relocate the steam line from Pier 5, 6 and 7 and will permanently relocate the steam line on Pier 5, 6 and 7 when the repair work for the piers is completed. The repairs to piers 6 and 7 are scheduled to begin in July 2020.

Como Congregational Church. The property owner, or his representative, applied to get a historic review of the property at 1035 14th Ave. Se. This application that allowed City staff to research the property to determine if it is a historic resource. They found that it “appears to meet local designation criteria...and has been determined to be a historic resource.” As a result, I am considering nominating it for local historic designation.

Lawless Distilling Company. The Council has approved Lawless Distilling Company’s application for a Permanent Expansion of Premises to add two tables on their outdoor private patio to seat an additional 12 patrons. There will be no music outside on the patio.

Seward Commons. The Council has approved financing updates to address needs of the next phase of the Seward Redesign’s Seward Commons project at 2200-2218 Snelling Ave S, 2215 Snelling Ave S, 1912 E 22nd St, and 2115 Snelling Ave S. We approved waiving park dedication requirements in exchange for private land maintained for public use for the Bessemer Apartments Project, 2200 Snelling Ave. and authorized 3-year extension to an existing loan and the redevelopment contract.

Brackett Park Bump-outs. After quite a bit of effective advocacy from residents, Public Works has agreed to install permanent concrete bump-outs at the intersection of 38th Ave S and 28th St E, which is where the Brackett Park connection to the Midtown Greenway and the tunnel under the Greenway meets the street grid. This improvement is being completed as part of the resurfacing of the streets in that area. I was very supportive of this community request and thank Public Works staff for their flexibility and responsiveness, and the neighborhood activists for their passion and tenacity.

Glendale Town Houses Historic District. The study for local historic designation of Glendale Town Houses Historic District has been completed. While it finds that the area is historically significant under 2 of the 7 criteria, staff recommended that it not be designated a local historic district because it has lost “historic integrity” in the areas of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The study did find that it has retained integrity for location and setting so, I recommended to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) that it should be designated. The staff report and study can be found on the HPC’s agenda that can be found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/calendar/all/monthly>. After a public hearing before the Heritage Preservation Commission on March 3rd, the Commission voted to recommend local designation. Their recommendation was scheduled to go to the Zoning and Planning Committee of the City Council April 9th, although, because of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is unclear if this will be taken up at that time.

Glendale Walkable Community Plan. The Council has secured a \$5,000 state grant to assist with implementation of the Glendale’s Walkable Community Action Plan that was developed last year with the help of the Minneapolis Health Department.

Art and Architecture Vermillion/Wallis Project. On March 13, the City Council took the final vote on the appeal of the amended Art and Architecture Vermillion/Wallis project located on University Avenue and Bedford. I voted to allow the project to go forward with the proposed changes to the site plan, after moving four new conditions. The first requires that coniferous trees be planted on the developer's property, as requested by a nearby property owner on Clarence Ave. The second requires the developer to keep at least 41% of the Art and Architecture building, which is in line with the Zoning Code's definition of "demolition." The third requires that the developer bury the power lines on the south side of University, adjacent to the development, which will significantly improve the pedestrian experience along the sidewalk. And the fourth requires that the developer provide the community with a single point of contact to provide updates and respond to neighbor concerns during construction. The approved amendments the developer sought to the previously approved site plan did three main things: reduced the height and bulk of the building, increased the number of units in the building, and reduced the number of parking places. Each of these changes are, from my perspective, improvements over the already-approved site plan for the building. Had these amendments not been granted, the project would have kept its previous land use approvals – for a taller, larger building with a smaller number of larger (and therefore more expensive) units. Unfortunately, I, and the City, did not have the legal authority to require a further reduction in height, to require some of the units to be affordable, or to require that some be ownership. I know that many in the community disagreed about this issue. Generally, I try to find outcomes that will satisfy all sides when there are disputes like these between constituents. It's unfortunate when there are issues, like this one, where that is not possible. I have tried to follow the law and find the most common ground possible between both my constituents who oppose and those who support this development. The Committee Report to the Council can be found at https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/download/CommitteeReport/1135/ZP_03052020_Committee_Report.pdf

Arthur Williams Walkway. Weather permitting, the contractor plans to start the construction of the new retaining wall for the walkway between Arthur and Williams in the 1st week of April. This work takes about 5 weeks to complete and may include closure of the walkway.

University District Alliance Independence. I am currently facilitating a work group to research, review and make recommendations to the University District Alliance board to help bring the organization more independence, resources and greater sustainability for the future. The goal of the initiative is to: "Create a sustainable and independent funding mechanism to allow the alliance to function as an independent entity, direct its own staff and accomplish its goals." Let me know if you would like to part of this effort.

University Overlay Zoning Workgroup. In the weeks ahead I will be convening a work group to explore how to use the University Overlay District to help offset potential negative impacts of the Minneapolis 2040 Plan and the new land use regulations that may be coming forward related to the new zoning proposals. I am currently seeking the collaboration of my fellow Council Members who also represent the district.

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://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs>

Open Office Hours in the Ward. My Community “Office Hours” in the Ward have been **suspended** for the month of April. Please reach out online and over the telephone.

Cam Gordon

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