



Richfield's 2022 Legislative Priorities

December 9, 2021

Welcome from the Mayor



Support legislation that addresses the widening existing economic, racial, health and education gaps for our most vulnerable communities..

Support local officials who know what tools and programs best support our residents

Oppose the imposition of legislative mandates that increase local costs without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism.

Remarks from City Council Members



**Simon Trautmann,
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**Sean Hayford Oleary,
Ward 2**
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Mary Supple, At-Large
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Ben Whalen, Ward 3
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Richfield's Top 2022 Legislative Priorities

1. **Support** a bonding bill for a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility
2. **Oppose** legislation allowing the sale of spirits or wine in grocery or convenience stores
3. **Oppose** legislation that reduces the authority of cities to charge fees related to the cost of providing the service, permit or license

1. Support a bonding bill that appropriates \$10,000,000 towards a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility

- This beloved and vital regional asset is turning 50 years old this year
- Center is in need of a new building and improved trail system
- 22,500 people attend programs each year
- Serves people from all areas of the Twin Cities metro including visitors from greater Minnesota



2. Oppose legislation allowing the sale of spirits or wine in grocery or convenience stores

- Important part of city revenue: in 2021, Liquor Contribution Fund will provide \$450,000 for park capital improvement plan
- Increased difficulty in control of the sale of alcohol if grocery and convenience stores are allowed to sell alcoholic beverages



3. Oppose legislation which reduces the authority of cities to charge fees related to the cost of providing a service, permits or licenses

- Fees should cover cost of providing the service, permit or license
- Oppose legislation that require specific methods to pay for city services or place caps on city fees



Administrative Services



Krista Guzman,
Human Resources Manager,
612-861-9704,
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- **Support** full reimbursement to cities for the cost of providing continued health insurance for police and firefighters disabled or killed in the line of duty.
- **Support** reimbursement to cities for the cost of covering employees who are out on military leave.
- **Support** legislative action to address increasing workers' compensation costs.
- **Support** policies that provide opportunities for employees diagnosed with PTSD to receive treatment for PTSD which result in continued employment.

Community Development



John Stark, Community Development Director
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Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director,
612-861-9766, MPoehlman@richfieldmn.gov

- **Support** amending the TIF statute to allow 10% of units at 30% of the Area Median Income.
- **Support** legislation for the preservation and rehabilitation of naturally occurring affordable housing properties.
- **Support** local autonomy in the development and approval of comprehensive plans and official controls.

Finance



*Katie Rodriguez, City Manager,
612-861-9702,
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- **Support** maintaining and increasing Local Government Aid.
- **Support** current formula and distribution of Fiscal Disparities and oppose shifting to fund projects.
- **Support** a fee increase or redistribution of fees for deputy registrars.
- **Support** state action to identify and strengthen state and local cybersecurity capabilities.

Fire



*Mike Dobesh, Fire Chief,
612-243-4502,
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- **Support** local control to determine who is able to provide the best EMS services in our community.
- **Support** continued funding of the Hometown Hero's Assistance Program (\$4 million per year in the base public safety budget).
- **Oppose** efforts to limit the use of residential fire sprinklers. We support working collaboratively with the stakeholders to provide the safest and most cost effective strategy for protecting homes.

Liquor



Bill Fillmore,
Liquor Operations Director,
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- **Oppose** the elimination of current Minnesota Law (Coleman Act) that allows an open wholesale system for alcoholic beverages (spirits).

Public Safety



Jay Henthorne,
Public Safety Director,
612-861-9828,
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- **Support** Police Officer Safety, Health, and Wellness (Protecting the Protectors) legislation.
- **Support** a statewide solution to better track racial disparities in traffic enforcement.
- **Support** legislation that provides a way for all persons to obtain a Driver License (regardless of citizenship status.)
- **Support** the **Arbitration Revision Act**, creating a more objective arbitration process by having the Office of Administrative Hearings handle all the police officer termination grievances.
- **Support** the **Officer Integrity Act**, allowing for a Minnesota Licensed Peace Officer to be terminated from public employment without opportunity to challenge the remedy of termination.

Public Works



Kristin Asher,
Public Works Director,
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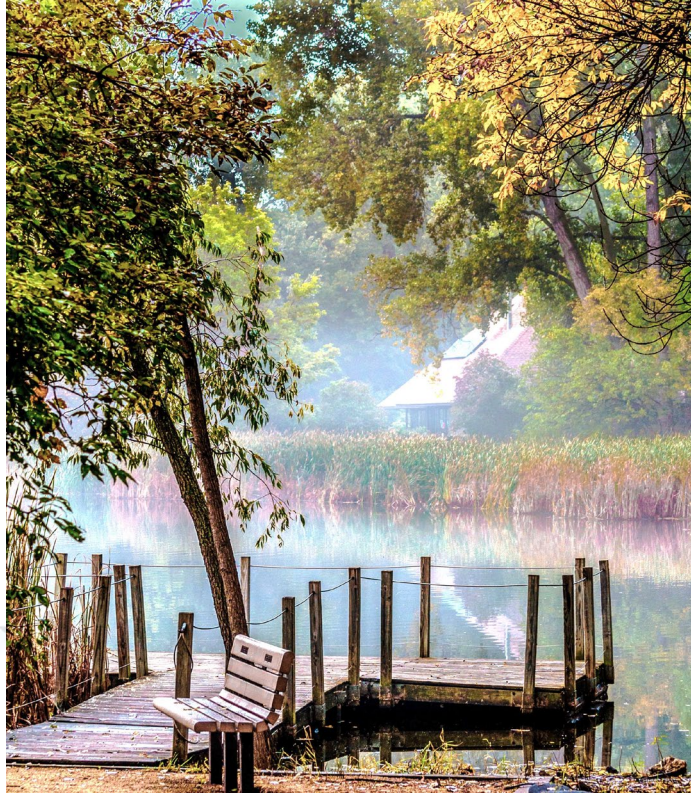
- **Support** a maximum local contribution to County and State projects and limit long-term maintenance responsibility placed on local agencies.
- **Support** state-wide, comprehensive and stable funding sources to address Minnesota's aging infrastructure.
- **Support** state laws that provide limited liability to commercial salt applicators that are certified through an established voluntary salt applicator certification program.
- **Support** legislation requiring proper labeling of disposable wipes as "not flushable" to avoid excessive public dollars being spent on unnecessary maintenance and sewage backups related to the misrepresentation that these wipes are flushable.
- **Support** opportunities to increase safety in work zones.
- **Oppose** any legislation or rule change that limits local authorities ability to regulate use of public rights-of-way (small cell, for example).

RECREATION AND SUSTAINABILITY



Amy Markle,
Recreation Services Director ,
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- **Support** continued funding of the Hennepin County Sports Grant Program
- **Support** continued funding of the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
- **Support** continued funding of the Mighty Ducks Grant Program
- **Support** efforts for the proper labeling of compostable products and not allow products with misleading claims to be sold or distributed in the State.
- **Support** legislation that would designate all solid waste taxes generated to the state's Select Committee on Recycling and Environment fund to support sustainability efforts.
- **Support** Hennepin County funding that would expand infrastructure at the local level for the creation of compost processing sites and/or anaerobic digesters.
- **Support** legislation that includes Extended Producer Responsibility initiatives.
- **Support** the development of and funding for zero-waste initiatives.



Questions?