



AGENDA
Richfield Legislative Breakfast
December 9, 2021
7:45 A.M.
Virtually via WebEx

1. Welcome Mayor Maria Regan Gonzalez
2. Remarks from City Council Members
3. Richfield Legislative Priorities
 - a. Top Priorities Katie Rodriguez, City Manager
 - b. Administrative Services Krista Guzman, Human Resources Manager
 - c. Community Development John Stark, Community Development Director
Melissa Poehlman, Assistant Community Development Director
 - d. Finance Katie Rodriguez, City Manager
 - e. Fire Mike Dobesh, Fire Chief
 - f. Liquor Bill Fillmore, Liquor Operations Director
 - g. Public Safety Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director/Police Chief
 - h. Public Works Kristin Asher, Public Works Director
 - i. Recreation Amy Markle, Recreations Services Director
4. Legislator Priorities
5. Wrap-up Katie Rodriguez, City Manager

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Meeting number (access code): 2464 577 2270



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Meeting password: GWvp8rAvA75

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City of Richfield



REDUCE ECONOMIC, RACIAL, HEALTH & EDUCATION GAPS

Support legislation that addresses the widening existing economic, racial, health and education gaps for our most vulnerable communities. As a city, we are providing local tools and support for residents, but there is need for more relief and legislation beyond city-level jurisdiction. We continue to support collaborative efforts with its representatives on legislation that expands labor rights, housing affordability and protections, as well as access to affordable healthcare.



LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Support local officials who know what tools and programs best support our residents. We support local decision-making authority and oppose statutory changes that erode local authority and decision making.



UNFUNDED MANDATES

Oppose the imposition of legislative mandates that increase local costs without a corresponding state appropriation or funding mechanism. Unfunded mandates may increase local property taxes and this additional cost impedes cities' ability to fund traditional services.

who we are

For decades, Richfield was one of the hidden gems of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. However, over the past several years the secret has gotten out. Richfield is in the middle of a redevelopment boom. With more than \$300 million already committed to redevelopment, as well as other interested developers contacting the city on an almost daily basis,

The ongoing development combined with the city's investment in public infrastructure projects, has resulted in Richfield being named one of the hottest housing market in the Twin Cities.

In 2018, City Pages' annual "Best of the Twin Cities" edition reinforced what residents already knew, that Richfield is the area's best suburb. Richfield is also known for its verdant and vibrant park system. The park system offers more than 460 acres of highly-accessible parkland, 22 neighborhood and community parks, the Wood Lake Nature Center, and many community and athletic facilities. Richfield's parks provide diverse recreational amenities including walking trails, picnic facilities, children's play areas, skating rinks, a skateboard park, and more.

Community facilities include a community center, mini-golf, farmers market, ice arena, outdoor pool and bandshell.



top legislative priorities



WOOD LAKE NATURE CENTER

Support a bonding bill that appropriates \$10,000,000 towards a new Wood Lake Nature Center facility. This beloved and vital regional asset, which serves a diverse demographic across the region, is turning 50 years old this year and is in need of a new building and improved trail system that meets the demands of its high-use, award-winning environmental education program and essential urban green space.



MUNICIPAL LIQUOR STORES

Oppose any legislative changes that would allow the sale of spirits or wine in grocery or convenience stores. The minimum age to purchase alcohol in Minnesota is 21 years old. The majority of current off-sale retailers do not allow persons under 21 to enter their facility to purchase any items, unless accompanied by an adult. Control of the sale of alcohol would become more difficult if grocery and convenience stores were allowed to sell alcoholic beverages.



CITY SERVICES

Oppose legislation or rule change that limits local authority related to the decision-making functions performed by cities when setting city budgets to provide city services. The City supports authority for cities to charge fees that are reasonably related to the cost of providing the service, permit or license. We oppose legislation that would require specific methods to pay for city services or would place caps on city fees.





administrative services



Support full reimbursement to cities for the cost of providing continued health insurance coverage for police and firefighters disabled or killed in the line of duty. From 7/1/17 to 7/1/21, the City paid \$221,883 towards continued health insurance benefits, of which only \$54,681 was reimbursed by the State.



Support reimbursement to cities for the cost of covering employees who are out on military leave. While employees are out, cities have to pay for 5 paid military leave days in a calendar year. Additionally, cities are obligated to pay for employee coverage for military leave through overtime expenses. The City of Richfield has seen a number of employees out on military leave for an extended period of time, which leads to increased cost with no reimbursement.



Support legislative action to address increasing workers' compensation costs, particularly rising medical costs related to COVID-19 and the presumptive clause for coverage for Police Officers and Firefighters for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Due to the rise in employee PTSD cases and their associated cost, we request a revision of the language currently in the Senate Bill and Department of Labor regulations in order to review the presumption in worker's compensation cases.



Support policies that provide opportunities for employees diagnosed with PTSD to receive treatment for PTSD that could result in continued employment with the local government. We also support the League of Minnesota Cities duty disability working group recommendations relating to mental health wellness within local government.



community development



Support amending the TIF statute to allow 10% of units at 30% of the Area Median Income. We support the language proposed by the Local Initiatives Support Coalition.



Support local autonomy in the development and approval of comprehensive plans and official controls. The City supports affordable housing and a diverse housing stock; however, creating regulations through zoning pre-emption bills is not the answer. Individual communities are in the best position to determine the specific tools and regulations, including Planned Unit Developments, necessary to encourage housing production and development.



Support legislation for the preservation and rehabilitation of naturally occurring affordable housing properties.

finance



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.



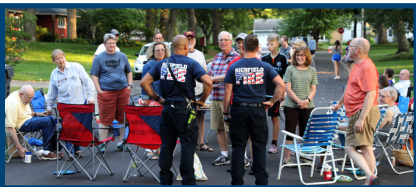
Support state action to identify and strengthen state and local cybersecurity capabilities. We support funding to evaluate local government cyber vulnerabilities, single points of failure, and fixes, and, the ability for municipal governments to apply for grant funding or assistance to solve these weaknesses.



fire



Support local control of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The current laws regulating EMS in Minnesota allow ambulance providers an exclusive Primary Service operating area (PSA). There are no response time requirements or oversight on ambulance billing rates in these PSAs. We support local control to determine who best able to provide EMS services in our community.



Support continued funding of the Hometown Hero's Assistance Program (four million dollars 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 homes.

liquor



Oppose the elimination of current Minnesota Law (Coleman Act) that allows an open wholesale system for alcoholic beverages (spirits). Elimination of the Coleman Act would result in exclusivity brand ownership and ultimately raise wholesale and retail consumer prices, compress the municipal liquor store's profit margins, and lower service levels in all distribution channels.



public safety



Support Police Officer Safety, Health, and Wellness (Protecting the Protectors) legislation. This legislation is similar to the Hometown Heroes Act that was recently passed to protect the fire personnel. This legislation would provide law enforcement agencies with training for emotional resiliency and understanding of trauma. Additionally, it would create peer support groups, provide mental health checks/therapy, suicide prevention/awareness and family support.



Support a statewide solution to better track racial disparities in traffic enforcement, like including race in driver's license and state identification card databases. We recognize the importance of having good data to evaluate systems and to build trust with the community.



Support legislation that provides a way for all persons to obtain a Driver License (regardless of citizenship status.) Individuals will learn the rules of the road and become qualified to safely operate a motor vehicle. As a licensed driver they also will need to obtain auto insurance.



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 should the basis for termination be willful or intentional dishonesty, deception, or similar unethical or illegal conduct that is deemed sufficient to imperil their credibility in court testimony. We oppose limiting an officer's due process right to arbitration.



public works



Support a maximum local contribution to County and State projects and limit long-term maintenance responsibility placed on local agencies. Cost participation requirements related to trunk highways and county state aid projects place too high of a burden on local units.



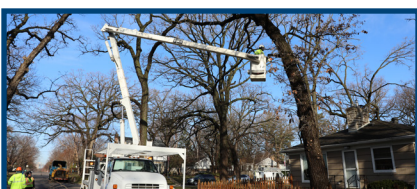
Support state-wide, comprehensive and stable funding sources to address Minnesota's aging infrastructure (water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation, etc.) to ensure Minnesota communities remain a great place to live and competitive place to do business.



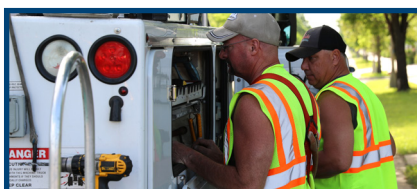
Support state laws that provide limited liability to commercial salt applicators that are certified through an established voluntary salt applicator certification program.



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 authority related to use of public rights-of-way (small cell, forexample).



recreation and sustainability



Support continued funding of the Hennepin County Sports Grant Program that has been an instrumental resource in helping support athletic facilities and athletic programs in Richfield.



Support continued funding of the Outdoor Recreation Grant Program through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources which has aided in the success of recreational facility creation and improvements.



Support continued funding of the Mighty Ducks Grant Program through the State of Minnesota, acting through its agency, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. This program is vital for ice arenas across the state to become for environmentally and financially sustainable through the conversion of R-22 refrigeration systems to modern cooling operations.



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 requiring manufacturers to finance all costs associated with collection, reusing, recycling, or safe disposal of their products such as carpets, mattresses, and electronics.



Support the development of and funding for zero-waste initiatives that involve stakeholders in the expansion of strategies and incentives to manage all discarded materials to their highest and best use according to the waste management hierarchy set forth in the Waste Management Act that will help local units of government reach recycling and composting goals.

legislative priority contacts



TOP PRIORITIES

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FINANCE

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LIQUOR

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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PUBLIC WORKS

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RECREATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Recreation Services Director, Amy Markle, 612-861-9354, AMarkle@richfieldmn.gov

Richfield staff is available to provide detailed information on any of the items listed on this handout and to provide testimony.