

ITEM: Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use  
REQUESTED BY: Mayor Lee Lansing  
SUBMITTED BY: Al Roder, City Administrator  
IN CONSULTATION WITH: Pat Allen, Task Force Representative

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**SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:**

The City Council is being asked to support the Mayor's task force on youth alcohol and drug use. The task force will work in collaboration with the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition (RCCHC) and multiple sectors of the Northfield community.

The Mayor's task force will focus on the following objectives:

- To raise community awareness about youth alcohol and drug use;
- To support and encourage efforts to increase community education about youth alcohol and drug use;
- To provide a citizen voice in community efforts to reduce youth alcohol and drug use;
- To examine existing policies and practices in the community around youth alcohol and drug use; and
- To develop and implement the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on youth alcohol and Drug use.

According to student survey results, the number of Northfield 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have used alcohol in the past 30 days is 54%, compared to 34% in Faribault, and a state average of 46%. The number of Northfield 12<sup>th</sup> graders stating they have used marijuana in the past 30 days is 22%, compared to 12% in Faribault, and a state average of 18.6%. Members of the Mayor's task force have the energy and enthusiasm for taking a stand on chemical abuse by youth and adults.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution 2006-026
2. Powerpoint information on youth chemical use

**SUGGESTED ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Introduction/Report:	Al Roder, City Administrator
Motion, second:	City Council
Questions/Comments from City Council:	Mayor and Council members
Questions/Comments from Public, if any (2 minutes/person):	Mayor facilitates
Discussion:	Mayor/City Council
Action on the Resolution:	City Council

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION #2006-026

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA RECOGNIZING THE MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON YOUTH ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE AND SUPPORTING ITS EFFORTS

- WHEREAS, the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey describes unacceptable levels of chemical use by youth in Northfield; and
- WHEREAS, since all sectors of the community may contribute to the problems, all are needed to design and implement the solutions; and
- WHEREAS, advocating for and with youth to lead healthy lives free of chemical abuse is important to our community; and
- WHEREAS, research and planning have been done by the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition (RCCHC) and the Healthy Community Initiative to address this issue; and
- WHEREAS, the Mayor of Northfield has created a Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use; and
- WHEREAS, the RCCHC has agreed to provide staffing and services to the Task Force.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The City of Northfield is committed to supporting the efforts of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use along with the other supporting entities.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 3rd day of April 2006.

ATTEST

  
Interim City Clerk

  
Mayor

VOTE: Y BOND Y DAVIS Y LANSING Y MALECHA Y NELSON  
Y POKORNEY Y VOHS

## Northfield Mayor's Task Force: Youth Chemical Use

2006

## Task Force Vision and Values

- We know that abuse of alcohol and other drugs creates problems for our community. We need to look at what contributes to the problems and how we can solve them. This work belongs to more than just parents or schools or law enforcement or treatment providers . . . it belongs to all of us.

## Task Force Vision and Values

- We have energy and enthusiasm for taking a stand on chemical abuse by youth and adults. We are advocates for and with youth to lead healthy lives free of chemical abuse.
- We care deeply about standing up for what is best for our kids to create a safe community for all of us.

## Why a Task Force?

- Northfield 12<sup>th</sup> graders stating they have used alcohol in the past 30 days—**54%** (compared to 34% in Faribault and 46% State average)

Minnesota Student Survey Results, 2004

### Why a Task Force?

- Northfield 12<sup>th</sup> graders stating they have used marijuana in the past 30 days—**22%** (compared to 12% in Faribault and 18.6% State average).

Minnesota Student Survey Results, 2004

### Why a Task Force?

- Nearly half of Northfield 8<sup>th</sup> graders say their peers think drinking alcohol is wrong. By 11<sup>th</sup> grade, only 8.6% say their peers disapprove of youth alcohol use.

2005 HCI Survey at Northfield Public Schools

### Why a Task Force?

- The economic cost of alcohol in Northfield is approximately \$15,432,300 with 18% (\$2,777,814) absorbed by state and local governments.

Minnesota Department of Health formula based on 2001 population.

Economic costs include lost productivity from alcohol-related illnesses; premature death due to alcohol use; healthcare expenditures; costs of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, social welfare administration and criminal justice system costs of alcohol-related crime.

### What can be accomplished?

- Raise community awareness of youth alcohol/other drug use in Northfield



### What can be accomplished?



- Support and encouragement for efforts to increase community education about youth alcohol and other drug use.

### What can be accomplished?

- Provide citizen voice in community efforts to reduce youth alcohol and other drug use.



### What can be accomplished?



- Examination of existing policies and practices in the community around youth alcohol and other drug use.

### Task Force Allies

- Northfield's Healthy Community Initiative
- Northfield's Chemical Health Task Force
- Rice County Chemical Health Coalition
- Rice County Family Services Collaborative

**Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use  
Purpose Statement**

*The Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use will work in collaboration with the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition and multiple sectors of the Northfield Community.*

Beginning work in March 2006, the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use is charged with the following purpose:

1. To raise community awareness about youth alcohol and drug use,
2. To support and encourage efforts to increase community education about youth alcohol and drug use,
3. To provide a citizen voice in community efforts to reduce youth alcohol and drug use,
4. To examine existing policies and practices in the community around youth alcohol and drug use, and
5. To develop and implement the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use.

# Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use

