

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

CC: Dave Bennett, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Jeff Schroeffer, Police Chief; Jake Reilly, Community Development Director; Lynette Peterson, City Clerk; Michelle Mahowald, Communications & Human Resources Director; Natalie Draper, Director of Library; Brenda Angelstad, Finance Director; Chris Hood, City Attorney

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator

RE: "Supplemental Agenda Background Memo" for October 1, 2024 No. 1.

Summary Report:

The following is an update on agenda items as supplemental background agenda information made available for Tuesday October 1, 2024:

9. Ord. 1067 - Consideration of Approval of the First Reading of Ordinance 1067 Text Amendments Related to Sign Regulations in the Historic-Overlay District in Chapter 34 - Land Development Code of the Northfield City Code.

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) discussed the three changes proposed by the Planning Commission, then held an informal vote on each item to develop a recommendation.

The HPC voted four (4) to two (2) to support changing signage from major work to minor work, delegating approval to city staff. HPC voted five (5) to one (1) to support removing the four (4) color limit on text.

The HPC voted five (5) to one (1) to reject removing the prohibition on fluorescent colors and the associated definition. The HPC felt that the use of fluorescent colors would have an adverse impact on the character and integrity of the Historic-Overlay District.

Staff has drafted an attached fourth alternative (Alternative 4) that reflects the updated recommendation from the HPC. This version includes a prohibition on fluorescent colors, no limit on the number of colors used for text, and defines signage as minor work.

Staff is updating their recommendation to approve Alternative 4. In addition to the HPC's concerns about integrity, the use of fluorescent colors could present safety concerns given the use of these colors in warning signs, traffic safety, or other critical uses. The use of these colors for signs could dilute the effectiveness of such signs. The proposed definition of fluorescent colors includes a method for testing colors to reduce subjectivity in the interpretation of the term "fluorescent." That definition under Section 4 is as follows, "colors of any hue that exhibit fluorescence detectable as a visible "glow" when exposed to ultraviolet radiation."

Staff has updated the presentation and is attached. Jake Reilly, Community Development Director will be presenting.