

**RE: MAYOR'S COVER LETTER**

*Accompanying the Mayoral Proclamation Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day*

To the Northfield Community,

In recent months, national discussions and executive-level statements have questioned the appropriateness of local and institutional recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day and similar observances. As established City Council policy, proclamations in Northfield are not policy documents and do not alter City ordinances, programs, or operations. Instead, proclamations can be used to "call attention to significant events, services, programs, celebrations, and accomplishments related to or impacting the City of Northfield." Proclamations serve as opportunities for expressions of community values, affirming what matters to us collectively and providing transparency about "why" we choose to recognize certain days or causes.

Northfield's recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day reflects our commitment to truth-telling, inclusion, and respect for all peoples and cultures. This proclamation affirms that our community values acknowledging the Dakota Nation and other Indigenous peoples who have shaped our region, and that we honor their ongoing contributions.

This proclamation also responds to a direct constituent request that the City recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in connection with an upcoming community event. On **Friday, October 10, 2025**, the **First United Church of Christ (UCC) in Northfield** will host a free regional conference titled "*Weaving a Wider Community: Seeing and Countering Racism in Our Own Backyard*" from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The conference, co-sponsored by UCC, will feature speakers addressing racism and community inclusivity, and will include lunch at no cost.

It is in this context that I am honored to issue the enclosed proclamation recognizing **Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 13, 2025**. This statement is both a reflection of our community's values and an invitation to join with others in learning and engagement.

Respectfully,



Mayor Erica Zweifel