

Northfield Municipal I.D. Proposal

**Packet Prepared by Neighbors United of Northfield
For the Northfield Human Rights Commission**

Northfield, August/September 2017



“We all belong”

Northfield Municipal I.D.

Procedures and process to implement a Municipal I.D. program in Northfield

Neighbors United, a diverse group of Northfield residents, has been working since February 2017 gathering the necessary information and support to successfully launch a Municipal I.D. program in Northfield.

The group approached the City of Northfield with a proposal and the first meeting was held in May 26th 2017 with a follow up meeting on July 13th 2017. As a result of the meetings, Mayor Rhonda Pownell asked that the proposal be channeled through the Northfield Human Rights Commission in order to make a recommendation for a City Council vote.

Community support

The support of the residents has resulted in over 600 signatures in support.

Organizations that have written letters of support:

Community Action Center (Jim Blaha)
Laura Baker Services (Sandi Gerdes)
HealthFinders (Charlie Mandile)
ISAIAH (Alexa Horwart),
Carleton Students (SEED), (Sarah Trachtenberg)
Young People Action Coalition (Helen Forsythe, Bailey Shatz-Akin
and Cliff Martin),

Freemasons of Social Lodge # 48 of Northfield (Jeramy Girard)
Northfield United in Love (Harmony Neal)
The LINK Center, (Teresa Stanley)
Minnesota Board of Pharmacy
NAIA, Northfield Area Interfaith Association, signed by several pastors
Mainstreet Project (Niel Ritchie,CEO)

Organizations that are preparing a letter of support:

Cannon Valley Friends (Linne Jensen and Corinne Smith)

Church of St. Dominic, with signatures of support as well

Northfield Municipal I.D.

What is a Municipal I.D.?

A Northfield Municipal I.D. is an identification card issued by the City of Northfield that, at a minimum, displays the cardholder's photo, name, date of birth, address, signature, issuance and expiration date. The card may also indicate if the cardholder is an organ donor; provide medical information; and provide emergency contact information. The card may also, at the cardholder's option, display the cardholder's self-designated gender.

With the I.D. may come benefits such as discounted items at local businesses, and in organizations and cultural institutions, to name just a few examples of the possible added benefits of obtaining a Northfield Municipal I.D.

Cities and towns across the country have instituted Municipal I.D.s. Since the early 2000s many cities have identified the need for all their residents to feel they belong to their communities and started their own Municipal I. D. programs. New Haven was the first city soon followed by many others such as Chicago and New York, and cities comparable in size to Northfield, such as Roselle, New Jersey.

Who needs a Municipal I.D.?

Everyone will find a Municipal I.D. useful and convenient. An I.D. is especially useful for anyone who does not have a driver's license: the elderly, immigrants, the disabled, migrants hosted by local families, visiting youth unconnected to local schools and college students, especially international students, long-term visitors (summer interns, temporary agricultural workers, etc.).

Those who have a state I.D. will also find a Municipal I.D. useful. The Municipal I.D. establishes residence in the city and comes with a variety of premiums that increases the likelihood of the cardholder's participation in the community.

Northfield Municipal I.D. = Belonging

All people living in Northfield, working here, going to school here, are part of the Northfield Community. But not all have the requisite identification that documents residence in the community, particularly the more vulnerable. Day to day life can be difficult without an I.D.: opening bank accounts, getting prescriptions, or securing legal documents such as birth certificates. A Municipal I.D. will make these tasks easier.

The Northfield Community I.D. also allows for more inclusive participation in educational and cultural events: concerts, lectures, art classes, health and wellness activities. Cardholders have stronger feelings of belonging, less uncertainty, and greater confidence.

The slogan, "We All Belong" matches one of the City of Northfield Strategic Plan 2018-2020 goals: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: A Community That Welcomes Everyone.

LIST OF CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY THAT HAVE MUNICIPAL IDs

(The list is as comprehensive as possible but may be missing cities and counties across the nation)

**New Haven, Connecticut, 2007. First city in the country to develop
a Municipal ID program.**

San Francisco, California, 2007

Trenton, New Jersey, 2009

Princeton, New Jersey, 2010

Richmond, California, 2011

Los Angeles, California, 2012

Oakland, California, 2012

Mercer County, New Jersey, 2013

Plainfield, New Jersey, 2013

Hudson and
Montmouth Counties, New Jersey

Greensboro and other cities, North Carolina, 2013

Washington, D.C., 2014

Richmond, Virginia, 2014

Washtenaw County, Michigan, 2014

Roselle, New Jersey, 2015

New York City, 2015

Asbury Park, New Jersey, 2015

Dover, New Jersey, 2015

Newark, New Jersey, 2015

Phoenix, Arizona, 2016

Chicago, Illinois, 2016

Detroit, Michigan, 2016

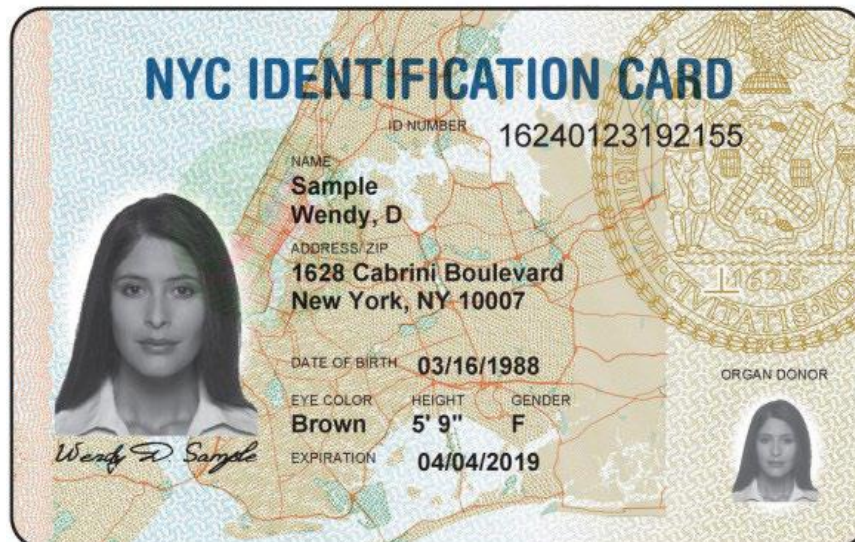
South Bend, Indiana, 2016

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2016

Union City, New Jersey 2017

Hartford, Connecticut 2017

SAMPLE OF MUNICIPAL I.D. CARDS



The Borough of Roselle, New Jersey, 21,085 residents

A similar size city as Northfield

We are following closely the case of the city of Roselle in New Jersey, population 21,085 (2010 United States Census) because it is a city similar in size to Northfield. We are also following the case of New York City and their IDNYC Municipal ID program, since they offer many benefits at local businesses and cultural institutions for New York City residents. The added benefits and discounts that these cards proffer would make holding them especially appealing for a wide range of people. These cards would work towards making our community more cohesive.

The City of Roselle initiated their program after an ordinance was passed by the city on October 21st, 2015. The state of New Jersey is the state in the country with the highest concentration of both cities and counties issuing municipal ID cards.

The City of Roselle issues their cards from the library. Only one person is in charge of issuing the cards that are done by appointment. The same person is also in charge of the documents to process passports. The two programs, the library cards and the municipal IDs are separate.

Added benefits for cities with ID cards

Reports from the many cities that issue municipal IDs demonstrate that crime reporting goes up after the initiation of these programs. One of the groups that greatly benefits from having the cards issued to them, undocumented immigrants, experience stronger confidence in contacting police departments to report crime and suspicious activity. This is why in some states it is police departments that most support this type of program. One example of this is the case of North Carolina.

Ideas for Northfield

The LINK Center in Northfield is an agency connected to the city of Northfield that could potentially be the best choice to issue the cards. They already have bilingual staff and their locations make the Center the best one for the community. Moreover, the LINK Center coordinator has already expressed strong interest in issuing the cards. The center is conveniently located by the Senior Center as they share the same building and this will make the location very comfortable for seniors to issue their Municipal IDs.

What *is* a municipal ID, and what is it *not*?

(Extract from the

It *is*...

- an identification card that, *at a minimum*, displays the cardholder's photo, name, date of birth, address, signature, issue and expiration date;
 - and *may also* include whether the cardholder is an organ donor; their medical information; their emergency contact information, and their self-designated gender.
- available to those who can prove identity and residence in Northfield;
 - in order to prove identity, applicants must present: a US or foreign passport, a US drivers' license; a US state ID card; a US permanent resident card; a consular identification card; a photo identification card with name, address, date of birth, and expiration date; a foreign driver's license; a US or foreign military ID card; a current visa issued by a government agency; a US Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) authorization letter; an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card; or any other documentation that the administering agency deems acceptable.
 - in order to establish residency, an applicant must present one or more of the following items showing both the applicant's name and residential address located within the municipality: a utility bill; a local property tax statement or mortgage payment receipt; a bank account statement; proof that the applicant has a minor enrolled in a local school; an employment pay stub; a federal or state court jury summons; a federal or state income tax or refund; an insurance bill; written verification from a homeless shelter or hospital.
- a kind of identification that municipalities across the country have instituted and accepted since the early 2000s;
 - New Haven paved the way, followed by many others, including Chicago and New York City. One of the cities most comparable to Northfield in size that has this ID is Roselle, NJ.
- a tool to encourage more inclusive participation in Northfield's educational and cultural events;
 - concerts, lectures at the colleges, NAG art classes, health & wellness activities, and more, could have special features for cardholders
- a way to enable marginalized communities in Northfield to have stronger feelings of belonging, less uncertainty, and greater confidence.

It is *not*...

- prohibited by any federal or state law.
- prevented by the REAL ID Act, because the REAL ID Act requires states to obtain proof of legal immigration status before issuing an ID *only if* the ID is to be used for federal purposes;
 - as a result, this ID is not suitable for travel or any federal purpose.
- problematic under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, which bars state and local governments from providing “state and local public benefits” to unlawfully present noncitizens unless the state enacts legislation that “affirmatively provides” for their eligibility;
 - ID cards do not count as benefits under the PRWORA definition, which includes as “any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of a state or local government or by appropriated funds of a state or local government,” or “any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of a state or local government or by appropriated funds of a state or local government.”
- intended to give out the information of its applicants;
 - the administering agency is not allowed to disclose the personal information obtained from an ID applicant to any individual, public, or private entity.
- available to someone who does not live within the municipality of the ID;
 - the ID has an expiration date, and so must be renewed; it is confiscated if a cardholder relocates out of the municipality.
- a driver’s license;
 - to get a driver’s license, you have to present a primary and secondary document; the primary has to be US-issued.
- permission to vote for people who are not currently allowed to vote.
- a way for people to obtain government benefits they do not have access to;
 - a person ineligible for government services before this ID would remain ineligible with it.

“Although a municipal ID card may be helpful to residents in securing benefits to which they are already entitled, it does not confer any new benefits not already available to an individual under existing law.”

— Center for Popular Democracy

SAMPLE OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Community Action Center
OF NORTHFIELD

July 31, 2017

Northfield Human Rights Commission
811 Washington
Northfield MN 55057

Dear Human Rights Commissioners,

I write in support of the Municipal I.D. for residents of the Northfield community who, for one reason or another, may not have the same access to a governmentally-issued source of identification. This may be the case for immigrants and refugees, or the elderly, or other individuals of limited means without any other type of benchmark identification.

Some immigrants or refugees may already carry a governmentally-issued card from their country of origin, only to have it minimized or dismissed as insufficient identification when presented here in Northfield in a transaction.

Such a municipally issued I.D. could be the thread that cinches our townspeople together into a community where we "belong" together. I believe that it should be available for all Northfield residents. It is more than a symbolic, inclusionary badge, although extending inclusion, in and of itself, is a valid reason for me to endorse the measure. The I.D. card promises a *practical* value in anchoring a person to our community, and giving that person a way to prove the affiliation when required to do so, e.g., opening a bank account, trying to establish parental authority, proving residency or simply buying a needed item like a prescription.

Opponents will argue that the State of Minnesota intentionally refuses to issue a driver's license to any undocumented resident and that that is basis enough to ignore any municipal effort towards inclusion. I'd argue that is a short-sighted mistake by those in power at the State level. Unfortunately, from the national policy table on, discriminatory response is now the sanctioned norm of behavior. That opposition will be a barrier to any proposed roll-out of the municipal I.D.

Nevertheless, a municipal I.D., perhaps even with a dual function of a library card, would be a true sign of identification, security and hospitality. We are the community; I am a member of this community. This community cares for me and I care for it and all the other members. From my corner of the community, this municipal I.D. is a "natural" element of identification, security and hospitality. I urge your advancement of such a measure.

Sincerely,

Jim Blaha
Executive Director

SEED

Students Engaging in Essential Dialogues Carleton College

July 31st, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Leadership Board of Students Engaging in Essential Dialogues (SEED) at Carleton to express our full support for the creation of a Municipal ID in Northfield. SEED, funded through the Dean of Students Office, facilitates conversations about identity, diversity, inclusion, and exclusion with student groups on Carleton's campus, as well as supporting similar initiatives within the Northfield community more broadly. We believe a Municipal ID would have countless benefits for elderly, disabled, transgender, and/or undocumented Northfield residents, and would generally allow for a greater sense of belonging and inclusion that would start to bridge the many divides that exist amongst Northfield residents. Chief amongst these divides are the clear separation between Northfield's white and Hispanic residents, both geographically and in terms of who feels comfortable and welcome at which Northfield events.

By extending this same inclusion to Carleton and St. Olaf students, the Municipal ID would also help bridge the "town-gown" divide that often prevents real integration between college students and long-term Northfield residents and allow for more substantial relationships (interpersonal, economic, etc.) to be built. The more benefits that are included with a Municipal ID (i.e. linking the ID to a library card, providing discounts at local businesses and town events), the clearer it would be that those who had a Municipal ID were valued and welcomed members of the Northfield community. The Municipal ID would have additional benefits for undocumented and international students at both colleges, as well as for trans students whose existing identification doesn't match their current gender presentation (that is, who have come out but not yet gone through the often-extensive and unaffordable legal process in their home state to change their name and gender marker on driver's licenses, etc.).

It would also be useful for transgender residents for whom Minnesota is their home state, but especially so for those from states with more prohibitive and discriminatory laws regarding updating identification. By implementing a Municipal ID in Northfield and ensuring local businesses and establishments accept the ID as a valid form of identification, the Northfield City Council can come one step closer to helping bridge the divides that have developed within our small community and ensuring that Northfield is a safe and welcoming community for all of its residents.

Best,



Sarah Trachtenberg, on behalf of the Carleton SEED Leadership Board



Ensuring Health Care Access for Everyone

July 28, 2017

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of our organization, HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc. we'd like to express our support for the City of Northfield establishing a municipal identification. We work with communities and families that may potentially benefit from having such a credential.

While we do not require photo identification to receive any of our services, we can understand how this may make a difference for many of our patients in other settings. For a variety of reasons there are barriers to obtaining other forms of governmental ID, and in today's world such credential is almost essential. Furthermore, having a credential from a foreign government may contribute to either overt or hidden discrimination, in our community.

This could be something that unites Northfield, and would facilitate access to governmental or community services, a concept very in-line with our mission. For members that often don't feel recognized for their contributions in our community, and for a community that can be unnecessarily marginalized, this would be a step in the right direction. One important note, we would only be in support of this, if we could be certain this process wouldn't lead to anything negative or compromising, real or potential, for already vulnerable members of our community, or their personal information.

If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact us at the information below.

Sincerely,

Charlie Mandile, MPH
Executive Director

mandile.charlie@healthfindersmn.org
507.646.8969

Daisey Sanchez
Clinical Services Manager

sanchez.daisey@healthfindersmn.org
507.646.8970

PO Box 731 • Northfield, MN 55057
223 Central Avenue • Faribault, MN 55021
healthfindersmn.org

info@healthfindersmn.org
PHONE 507.323.8100
FAX 507.322.400



July 25th 2017

Dear Northfield Neighbors United/Community Coalition:

I write on behalf of ISAIAH in order to express our support of the Neighbors United/Community Coalition's proposal for the adoption of a municipal ID in Northfield. We strongly support this initiative because of its aims to foster a safer, more inclusive community.

Using faith-based strategies of organizing, ISAIAH strives to create inclusive, equitable communities that respect a variety of identities. With that vision in mind, we are in favor of the municipal ID initiative. Its goal is not only to make Northfield a more accessible, inclusive community for all residents and immigrants as well, but to make it a community whose express purpose is to bring people together.

By writing this letter, we agree to take on specific roles and responsibilities to further the municipal ID initiative. With the approval and guidance of the coalition, we pledge to offer support in the following ways:

- encouraging the development of productive relationships between diverse faith communities in Northfield in order to foster understanding for the benefits of the municipal ID as well as to strengthen community connections
- asking ISAIAH members to inform their communities about the initiative and support its passage in city government as best they are able

We look forward to working with the Northfield Neighbors United/ Community Coalition on this initiative and any future ones that aim to eliminate the barriers that prevent all residents of Northfield from participating fully in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexa Horwart".

Alexa Horwart
Greater Minnesota Organizer
ISAIAH
2356 University Ave W Suite 405, St. Paul, MN 55114

YPAC

Young People Action Coalition

July 2017

To the City of Northfield,

YPAC (Young People's Action Coalition) is a group of youth in Northfield working on educating the community about social justice issues as well as participating in action to stop oppression and injustice.

We believe that having a Municipal I.D. would be good for Northfield youth who need an ID besides their school card, especially for those of us who do not attend a school that provides one. A Municipal I.D. would help the immigrant community, especially the students of those communities that lack a sense of safety in Northfield. It would allow adult immigrants who drive to have some form of identification, especially if they do not have an official license.

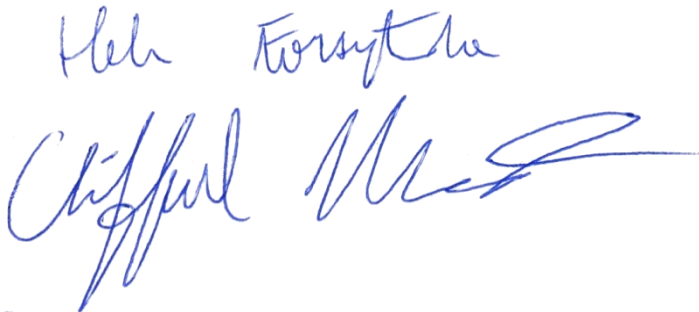
The Municipal I.D. would benefit many transgender individuals in Northfield as well, allowing them to have an identification that corresponds with their gender identity. It would allow for many different groups to have equal access to official identification, a plan that will benefit everyone.

We support the Municipal I.D.'s and hope it becomes a reality.

Sincerely,

Northfield YPAC

Helen Forsythe, Cliff Martin, Bailey Shatz-Akin

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature, "Helen Forsythe", is written in a cursive style. The second signature, "Cliff Martin", is also in cursive and appears to be written over or next to the first signature.

The State Pharmacy Board endorsement came in the form of an email to Neighbors United member Olivia Frey:

From: **Park, Brian (HLB)** <brian.park@state.mn.us>
Date: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 at 9:44 AM
Subject: RE: Northfield Municipal I.D.
To: Olivia Frey <oliviafrey147@gmail.com>
Cc: "Wiberg, Cody (HLB)" <cody.wiberg@state.mn.us>, "Ferguson, Beth D (HLB)" <beth.ferguson@state.mn.us>, "Huff, Steven (HLB)" <steven.huff@state.mn.us>

Ms. Frey,

After further review of Minnesota statutes and Board of Pharmacy rules, in addition to the Combat Methamphetamine Act of 2005, Alternate Forms of Identification, 8 CFR 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(A) and 274a.2(b)(1)(v)(B), it is the opinion of this office, a Northfield Municipal Photo Identification Card as described would satisfy the identification requirements of Minnesota Statute 152.11, subd. 2(d), and should be accepted by Minnesota pharmacists for dispensing of Schedule II or III controlled substances, and products containing pseudoephedrine.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Cody Wiberg, Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, if you have any additional questions.

Brian A. Park
Attorney

MINNESOTA BOARD OF PHARMACY



2829 University Avenue SE, Suite 530
Minneapolis, MN 55414-3251
brian.park@state.mn.us
(651) 201-2867 (office)
(651) 201-2825 (Board office)
(612) 617-2262 (fax)



A.F. & A.M.

Social Lodge #48

113 Linden St. S.

Northfield, MN 55057

10 July 2017

To whom it may concern,

The Freemasons of Social Lodge # 48 of Northfield supports a municipal identification program for the city of Northfield.

There are a number of groups of residents of the city who would benefit greatly from such a program including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, immigrants or refugees who are not able to acquire another form of identification due to their legal status, elders who may no longer have driver's licenses. Sometimes, accessing the documents required to receive a state-issued identification can be difficult. For example, original social security cards and birth certificates can be difficult to access, or can take months to obtain.

Municipal identification cards could assist in solving this issue, and could provide residents with a secondary form of identification when this is required, as many do not have credit cards or other forms of acceptable identification.

We would hope that any efforts to establish a municipal identification program would include public relations work with local businesses and employers to ensure that they understand the identification program, and accept it as valid for identification purposes.

We support the development of municipal identification, and encourage Northfield to adopt its use.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Girard

Master, Social Lodge #48

7/4/2017

Dear City of Northfield,

I am writing on behalf of Northfield United in Love to support the initiative to provide Municipal IDs to long term and temporary residents of Northfield. We believe that we should do everything in our power to improve the lives of those around us and extend true compassion, inclusion, and equality to our neighbors. Many people are not able to obtain other forms of US ID, and we almost know just how inconvenient and difficult that can make someone's life. We don't **really** know because we haven't experienced it ourselves, but we can guess how awful it is to not be able to participate in many aspects of life due to not having an ID.

It's fitting that we are writing to you on Independence Day. Municipal IDs would mean greater independence and freedom for many people.

I've personally witnessed how awful and alienating it can be to not be able to order a beer with a meal because, as a 32-year-old-man, you don't have access to an ID. It happened to a friend of mine and really ruined his week because it was a reminder of everything he could not do in his life. I personally hope that once Municipal IDs start, that local businesses are instructed to accept them as forms of ID for the purchase of alcohol.

Even if I basically never order an alcoholic beverage with a meal, it's an option I take for granted. It's a small thing I'm allowed and encouraged to do as an adult. Not having that option must feel very alienating. And that is only one small example of things most people take for granted that other people cannot do simply because they do not have identification.

We at Northfield United in Love hope you will start making Municipal IDs available to people who need them as soon as possible, at a very affordable cost.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harmony Neal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "N".

Harmony Neal
Northfield United in Love
Northfieldunitedinlove@gmail.com
Northfieldunitedinlove.org

September 6th 2017

Northfield Area Interfaith Association

As religious leaders in Northfield, we encourage the city of Northfield to enact the proposal of Northfield Neighbors United to pursue a municipal ID program. We believe this initiative will help Northfield be a more loving and welcoming community.

The municipal ID program gives individuals another identification option without having to present state-issued documents that a person may not have or may have difficulty accessing. The necessity of having adequate identification may not be immediately apparent to Northfield residents who can procure state-issued licenses and easily retrieve social security cards and birth certificates. However, undocumented immigrants, disabled people, trans people, seniors, and more, face the struggles of inadequate identification on a daily basis.

Undocumented people don't have all the required US documents needed to obtain certain kinds of US identification, so they wind up having to use foreign-issued ID. Local establishments and individuals often question or deny the validity of these documents. Disabled individuals and seniors may have trouble accessing their state-issued documents, and can be unable to earn their driver's license. Trans people do not have the ability to present identification that accurately represents their gender. All of these groups of people need to present identification on a regular basis: to pick up prescriptions; to verify identity in order to sign their child's birth certificate; to open a bank account; or to prove identity to a police officer when reporting or being accused of a crime. Northfield will be more loving and welcoming when *all* residents are able to complete these tasks.

A municipal ID will make it easier for all people in Northfield to go about their daily lives. A municipal ID will also make Northfield a more welcoming and loving community. As religious leaders who encourage loving our neighbors as ourselves, we believe creating a municipal ID is a simple and important step our city should take.

Sincerely,

The undersigned

Todd Vesper, First UCC Northfield
Gayle M. Marsh, All Saints Episcopal, Northfield
Jan Ryman, Bethel Lutheran Church / St. Dominic Church
Rebecca Wold Freeman, Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield
D. A. Winks, St. Peter's Lutheran, Northfield
Theresa M. Kenny, Main Street Moravian Church, Northfield

August 28, 2017



To The City of Northfield,

I write to you in strong support of the Municipal ID as the coordinator of the LINK. Northfield has a chance to make history by becoming the first city in the state of Minnesota to administer a city ID. It has become a successful resource in many other cities across the nation.

Speaking of resources, the LINK Center is all about connecting Northfield citizens with city and county-wide resources. We work especially with those who are oftentimes marginalized by economic and language barriers. Our top clients at the LINK Center include seniors and immigrants who most often deal with these barriers mentioned above.

For senior residents, this card can be used as another form of identification. The elderly at times struggle to pin down materials issued at birth. In addition, the fact that many will lose the ability to drive, the Municipal ID will again aid as another form of identification.

Similarly, immigrants will benefit with the hopes of feeling more connected to the community. So often their efforts go unnoticed and unrecognized and the Municipal ID can be one way we can stand with our brothers and sisters to say, "We Support You." In addition, it should be noted that within the immigrant community, the act of reporting crimes has increased in other cities where municipal IDs are issued. This is because the cards make undocumented citizens more willing to report crime and provide eyewitness accounts. Officers can positively identify someone that they come into contact with.

I support the Municipal ID in Northfield and even propose that the job of application intake and card processing could be located at the LINK Center. Our staff here is bilingual in Spanish and English with exceptional customer service skills. Moreover, the location at the Northfield Community Resource Center is most convenient being in the same building as the Community Action Center and Senior Center.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 608-434-1760 or office 507-664-3500.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa L. Stanley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Teresa" being the most prominent part.

Teresa L. Stanley
LINK Center Coordinator



Bringing the Power of Possibility to People with Special Needs

10 July 2017

To whom it may concern,

Laura Baker Services Association supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a variety of settings in the Northfield area. Many of our clients have state-issued identification that they can use for a variety of purposes. Sometimes, accessing the documents required to receive this state-issued identification can be difficult. For example, original social security cards and birth certificates can be difficult to access, or can take months to obtain.

Municipal identification cards could assist in solving this issue, and could provide our clients with a secondary form of identification when this is required, as many do not have credit cards or other forms of acceptable identification.

As a municipal identification program is implemented in Northfield, it will be important to ensure that businesses who require identification for transactions be willing to accept municipal identification as a valid form of identification. We would hope that any efforts to establish a municipal identification program would include public relations work with local businesses and employers to ensure that they understand the identification program, and accept it as valid for identification purposes.

We support the development of municipal identification, and encourage Northfield to adopt its use.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Gerdes", is written over a large, light gray circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sandra Gerdes

Executive Director



September 7, 2017

To the City of Northfield:

I write as the CEO of Main Street Project in support of the effort to initiate a Municipal I.D. program for the residents of the City of Northfield. As a nonprofit organization that has been working for the last 10 years in the community to promote equity and inclusion, we believe that this effort has the potential to increase the sense of belonging and security for many residents of the community who may otherwise lack a recognized form of identification.

We believe that all residents of the Northfield community, be they immigrants, elderly, students, or transgender, should be welcome and have a means to identify themselves, especially when other forms of government-issued IDs are not accessible to them. There are many situations in which the card could provide sufficient personal identification to meet the needs of the requesting agency, be it a bank, pharmacy, school, or police department. The card identifies one as a member of the community, with a name, with an address, with an identity. That, in itself, sends a message of belonging and rootedness and leads to personal investment in this place called "home".

We join others in asking the City of Northfield to adopt this proposal and move toward the issuance of a municipal I.D. program, open to all members of the community.

Sincerely,

Niel Ritchie
Chief Executive

105 4th Street East, Suite 213
Northfield, MN 5057
507-786-9900

mainstreetproject.org