

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN  
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2020-081  
ESTABLISHING A CITIZEN POLICE ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY REVIEW TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS, the City of Northfield Vision Statement reads that “Northfield is an open, safe, and welcoming community, recognized for its world-class colleges and historic riverfront downtown, and is dedicated to sustainably enhancing and preserving its vibrant culture, celebrated arts, strong economy, and an excellent quality of life where all can thrive”; and
- WHEREAS, the police department provides professional police services to the residents, visitors, colleges, and businesses within the city; and
- WHEREAS, the City conducted a staffing and operational assessment of the police department in 2019 in an effort to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Department as an action item within the Strategic Plan (2018-2020) of the City Council; and
- WHEREAS, the 2019 study recommended opportunities to improve the administrative and procedural practices of the Department, in particular updating the police department policies; and
- WHEREAS, the police department is currently reviewing and editing the standard policies provided by Lexipol to fit the department and community, and as part of this review process, the police department has requested assistance from the public in providing feedback on select policies that have been highlighted during recent calls for police reform; and
- WHEREAS, a task force of members of the public to provide feedback to the department through a series of meetings this fall and winter will be helpful in crafting policy in alignment with best practices and community expectations; and
- WHEREAS, the Northfield City Council’s Strategic Plan stresses the importance of a welcoming community that recognizes diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as operational effectiveness with an emphasis on improved trust and improved external communication; and
- WHEREAS, community members appointed to this task force represent a diverse cross section of our community and as a representative of the organizations they work with and the people that make up their organization, including their staff, clients, and stakeholders have the ability to provide meaningful feedback on policies; and
- WHEREAS the Northfield Citizen Police Administrative Review Task Force intends to meet on an as needed basis over a period of not more than 5 months; and
- WHEREAS, the Council has the Authority to create advisory boards and commissions in accordance with Section 3.2 of the City Charter and Minnesota Statutes, Section 412.111; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.2 of the City Charter provides that the Mayor shall appoint the members of advisory boards and commissions subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the council; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the review will be further defined at a future date with a focus on policing reform policies.

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

The Northfield City Council establishes the "Citizen Police Administrative Review Task Force" as follows:

1. Work to review the police department policies to include the following:
  - Preservation of constitutional rights;
  - Conformity to police reform law changes;
  - Prioritization of policies to protect life and livelihood of citizens;
  - Prioritization to align with the city strategic plan; and
  - Prioritization to align with 21<sup>st</sup> century policing initiatives.
2. The Northfield Citizen Police Administrative Review Task Force shall terminate upon completion of the review and submittal of a report to the City Council.
3. The following persons are appointed to serve on the Northfield Citizen Police Administrative Review Task Force:
  - Rhonda Pownell (city council)
  - Clarice Grabau (city council)
  - Hassel Morrison (St. Olaf)
  - Carolyn Livingston (Carleton)
  - Nancy Antoine (Northfield Public Schools)
  - Anika Rychner (Northfield Community Action Center)
  - Jennyffer Barrientos (Healthy Community Initiative)
  - Ben Heath (Northfield Union of Youth)
  - Jennifer Fischer (Northfield Hospital and Clinics)
  - Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin (Regenerative Agriculture Alliance)
  - John Fossum (Rice County Attorney)
  - Kelly McCarthy (Minnesota Post Board)
4. An additional college-aged member shall be appointed to serve on the Northfield Citizen Police Administrative Review Task Force.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

ATTEST:

Deb Arlt  
City Clerk

Rhonda Powell  
Mayor

VOTE:

<u>Y</u>	POWELL	<u>N</u>	DELONG	<u>Y</u>	GRABAU	<u>Y</u>	NAKASIAN
<u>Y</u>	NESS	<u>Y</u>	PETERSON WHITE	<u>Y</u>	ZWEIFEL		





# City of Northfield

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## Legislation Text

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File #: Res. 2020-081, Version: 1

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City Council Meeting Date: September 15, 2020

To: City Council

From: Ben Martig, City Administrator  
Mark Elliott, Police Chief

CC: Rhonda Pownell, Mayor

Consider Resolution Establishing Citizen Police Department Administrative Policy Review Task Force and Related Mayoral Appointments.

### Action Requested:

The Northfield City Council consider approving the attached Resolution Establishing Citizen Police Department Administrative Policy Review Task Force and Related Mayoral Appointments.

### Summary Report:

In April 2020 the Northfield Police Department began a process to revise and update the policy manual the department uses to guide the operations of the department and the actions of its members. The department contracted with Lexipol to provide the framework for the policy manual through policies that follow federal and state laws as well as court decisions, and best practices guidelines affecting law enforcement service delivery. Shortly after this process began we all witnessed the death of George Floyd, the civil unrest that followed, and the calls for police reforms.

The department is currently reviewing and editing the standard policies provided by Lexipol to fit our department and community. As part of this review process the police department has requested assistance from the public in providing feedback on select policies that have been highlighted during recent calls for police reform.

Mayor Pownell, in consultation with the Police Chief and City Administrator, is proposing the attached Resolution that will establish a task force of members of the public to provide feedback to the department on the policies through a series of meetings this fall and winter. Members of this task force were chosen as a community member and representative of a diverse cross section of organizations representing our city. The work they do and the people that make up their organizations including staff, clients, and stakeholders represent our community thus positioning them well to share the voices of many to this process.

Police Chief Mark Elliott has expressed his desire to follow guidance offered in the 2015 President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing report in creating trust and legitimacy for the Northfield Police Department through transparency and accountability. He feels this process is meaningful in providing community voice and

understanding into the work the police department performs.

The task force will consist of a diverse group of about a dozen community members and will meet about 5 times from October to January to review policies, ask questions, and provide feedback which will be used to formulate the final policies. The policies to be reviewed will consist of approximately 25 policies that have a nexus to the police reform discussions that have recently occurred such as use of force, immigration, bias based policing, standards of conduct, hate or prejudice crime reporting and investigation, etc.. The time commitment is expected to be approximately 90 minutes for each meeting and a couple hours of review time of the policies and materials between each meeting. Upon conclusion of this process a report on the task force's work will be given to the City Council through a public meeting presentation, and the final policy manual will be posted online once completed.

Given the current pandemic, the task force will follow current Executive Orders on gatherings, and will meet through an online format for as long as that is the suggested best practice. In person meetings will occur only if allowed and will follow physical distancing guidelines.

**Alternative Options:**

None recommended.

**Financial Impacts:**

None.

**Tentative Timelines:**

As outlined in the summary report.