

A NORTHFIELD CHARTER COMMISSION RESOLUTION  
PASSED ON MARCH 18, 2010

A RESOLUTION BY THE CHARTER COMMISSION REQUESTING THE NORTHFIELD CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR TO JOIN THE CHARTER COMMISSION IN REVISING THE NORTHFIELD CITY CHARTER TO DEFINE THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY BEING EMPLOYED AS A "COUNCIL-MANAGER" PLAN RATHER THAN A "MAYOR-COUNCIL" PLAN

WHEREAS, the members of the Charter Commission have observed that the operational practices concerning authority, accountabilities, responsibilities and organization charts comply with provisions of the Charter as modified by Ordinance 801 dated April 24, 2004 and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 801 transferred the executive powers from the Mayor to a City Administrator accountable to the Council as well as requiring the Mayor to be "accountable to the Council for oversight of the administration of the city" as opposed to being accountable to the citizens of Northfield who elected the Mayor. This change revised the accountability structure from being divided between Council and Mayor, the legislative and executive branches respectively, to a single entity, the Council, which delegated the executive authority to a City Administrator.

WHEREAS, the Charter Commission has compared these practices to the generally accepted definitions of Forms of Government as provided by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, as documented in Exhibit A, Forms of Local Government. The Commission has concluded that the current practices conform almost exactly with the Council- Manager form. It was also observed that the Mayor-Council definition in Exhibit A described the form of government being employed prior to Ordinance 801.

WHEREAS, the Charter Commission found further confirmation of its conclusion in another ICMA document that describes the "council-manager" form of government in terms of the roles of the administrator/manager, the council and the mayor. Exhibits B and C are the ICMA documents. Exhibit D is a revision of B and C substituting "administrator" for "manager" which we submit are accurate descriptions of the current roles of the Northfield administrator, council, and mayor.

WHEREAS, the Charter Commission and Council in July of 2007 reinforced the fact that they considered the City Administrator to be the City Manager when it incorporated into the Charter by Ordinance 864 the provisions of Minnesota Statute 412.641, Manager: Basis For Choice; Residency; Term; Probation, which includes granting a city manager the right to a public hearing in the case of impending dismissal, a prerogative not normally available to any other city employee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY THE NORTHFIELD CHARTER COMMISSION THAT:

The Chairman of the Charter Commission submit this resolution to the Mayor/Council for inclusion on a City Council regular meeting agenda as a motion to be acted upon before the end of April, 2010.

PASSED by the Charter Commission of the City of Northfield on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

Attachments: Exhibits A thru D

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Peter Dahlen, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTED:

\_\_\_ BALSTER \_\_\_ BECK \_\_\_ BECKER \_\_\_ DAHLEN \_\_\_ DEE \_\_\_ MC WILLIAMS \_\_\_ SUMMA