Memorandum

DATE: August 6, 2010

TO: Mayor & Council Members

FROM: Joel Walinski, City Administrator

RE: Board And Commission Memo July 2010

Thank you to the Board and Commissions that have submitted information as a follow-up to their Board and Commission actions and meetings in July 2010. Information for the August memo will be due by Sept 3, 2010 and posted on Friday September 10 6, 2010. Please note: some submittals are edited.

Below is information from Board and Commission Chairs on Northfield board and commission items of interest:

Environmental Quality Commission
Submitted by Daniel Jones, Chair

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) July meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

Human Rights Commission
Submitted by Commissioner Corinne Smith

The Human Rights Commission heard from Mark Taylor, Chief of Police, about the level of service that Karen Mangold will be able to offer the Commission as a replacement for Marj Evans-de Carpio. Karen will not be able to attend meetings and will only be able to create a final, formal version of the minutes and place them into the public record. The Commission will need to take its own minutes.

The other guests spoke to the issue of Bridging Language Gaps to Build Inclusive Communities. The Commission learned of the growth in numbers of non-native English speakers in the community, the services needed and those provided, and the gaps in services. One of the significant gaps identified relates to the ability to communicate with non-English speakers in times of emergencies. Some possible ideas were discussed.

Citizen concerns were discussed. These included:

- New medical interview questions being required to be asked by MN Department of Health, and the discomfort they might raise, especially for immigrants
- Lack of interpreter provided for deaf people wishing to attend *55 Alive* driving safety class
- Report that transit will not go to home of a handicapped person living in Viking Terrace but is asking for the person to be able to get to the entrance to Viking Terrace to utilize the transit services

Judy Dirks and Corinne Smith will attend the Board meeting of the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions.

Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use
Submitted by Joan Janusz and Susan Sanderson, Co-Chairs

Highlights of July Activities:

- As a part of the group's "Talk, Listen, Connect" (TLC) parent education initiative, the Mayor's Task Force is implementing a series of postcards to parents on important topics related to keeping their children safe and avoiding risk-taking behaviors like alcohol and drug use. The second postcard in the series was mailed in early July and focused on summertime parenting tips. The third postcard was mailed in late July with information on curfew in Northfield, including the City ordinance on this topic.

- With continued in-kind support from Neuger Communications Group and from the Northfield Middle School, the Mayor's Task Force has decided to continue the "MOST Northfield students" campaign at the middle school next year. The campaign will continue to work to highlight positive choices made by most Northfield students and to correct misperceptions about their peers' use of drugs and alcohol.

- The Mayor's Task Force finalized work on its "2010 Report to the Community." This highlights the group's mission and its work over the past year. The report will be posted online and mailed to project stakeholders in the coming weeks.

- The Mayor's Task Force continues to support the Pure Performance effort, coordinated through the Northfield High School Activities Office. Three community members attended the American Athletic Institute's "Life of an Athlete" training this summer and will give a presentation on Pure Performance at the Fall Activity Night (scheduled for August 17 and typically attended by over 800 students and parents). The Mayor's Task Force looks forward to continuing to work with the Northfield High School on this initiative throughout the 2010-11 school year.

- The Mayor's Task Force reviewed information on social host ordinances that have been implemented in over 50 other communities across Minnesota.

- This month's Mayor's Task Force column in the *Northfield News* focused on the "Take It to The Box" medication disposal program, which has collected more than 1,800 pounds of medication since its launch last September. Mary Nelson (the program's coordinator) also was interviewed on KYMN radio.

Mayor's Youth Council
Submitted by Marti Dompierre & Bette Benson, co-chairs

- In July, the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) assigned representatives to go to different City Board and Commission meetings. These MYC members will attend the meetings (as their schedules allow), providing youth input when requested and offering to partner on collaborative efforts.

- A rough draft of the Civic Engagement Guide was compiled by the members and edited. The MYC hopes to complete this project by this fall.

- Our future plans were discussed and a potential idea is to host a dinner with local youth, city council members, and other community members. The purpose of the dinner would be for youth to have a

better understanding of our local city government, to build connections between youth and adults, and to provide a forum for youth to offer their perspectives to community leaders.

- Representatives from the Northfield Transit/Grassroots Transit Initiative came to one of our meetings to hear our ideas on where some of the bus stops should be if the Northfield Transit moves to a routed system. The MYC shared important potential stops and marketing ideas to increase youth ridership.

- The MYC website is close to being finished. Once it is completely done, Brenda Kell, Marti Dompierre and Bette Benson will be in charge of publicity for the site.

- We decided to wait to finish the Mayor's Platform in the fall.

CC: Board & Commission Chairs
Department Managers