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The City That Soars!

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date	June 5, 2019
Agenda Item	Policy D1
Attachment	N/A
Submitted By	Justin Markon, Community Development Coordinator

Item	Fire Inspections for High Density Residential and Businesses
Description	<p>Currently, the Fire Marshall inspects rental units during the license renewal period, which occurs each year (licensed from January 1 to December 31). Typically, units are inspected on the odd years or when a unit is sold and a new license is granted.</p> <p>Staff would like to consider expanding the fire inspection program to include all high density residential (4+ units) and businesses in the City.</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p>As currently stated in our City Code in the rental housing section, “the purpose of this article is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the city who have as their place of abode a living unit furnished to them for the payment of a rental charge to another by adopting licensing regulations for all rental dwellings in the city.”</p> <p>This licensing program currently leaves out a large percentage of the city’s population with over 700 high-density rental units that are not inspected. Additionally, staff feel that it is important to protect the health of the general public who visit our businesses.</p> <p>In Ramsey County, many cities implement both a rental housing and business fire inspection program. These include Vadnais Heights, North St. Paul, New Brighton, Little Canada, and Lauderdale. Others have programs for one or the other.</p> <p><i>High Density Residential</i></p> <p>In 2019, the Fire Marshall inspected 55 rental residences, which include buildings with 1, 2, or 3 dwelling units. There are approximately 30 larger rental buildings in the City, ranging from 5 to 119 units, with a current total of 704 rental units.</p> <p>High density buildings do not currently require any licensing. Staff are proposing a program that would require fire inspections of the common areas of the buildings. Some cities tie this to a rental license while others require a certificate of occupancy.</p>



The City That Soars!

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date	June 5, 2019
Agenda Item	Policy D2a
Attachment	Support Documents
Submitted By	Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator

Item	2019 City Council Priorities - Cultivating a Caring Community Efforts
Description	<p>In 2018, the City Council budgeted \$30,000 for inclusion efforts for 2019. On November 29, 2017, The Saint Paul Foundation authorized of \$20,000 for Including Everyone in Falcon Heights: Creating Inclusion and Securing Safety.</p> <p>The City had to shift priorities based on only receiving the St. Paul Foundation Grant and determine the best use of the dollars that would have the most impact in the community. Below is the list of projects or events completed on behalf of the funds from the Foundation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cultivating a Caring Community Kickoff and Mini Inclusion Training 2. Inclusion Training for City Council and Staff 3. Survey and Service on the Spot (SOS) - Food Trucks 4. Mural - Partnership with Falcon Heights Elementary 5. Developed 2019 Guest Speakers for Inclusion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "Letters from Jackie" b. "Healing and Understanding" c. "Grey Area Thinking" <p>Mayor Gustafson, Council Member Leehy and I are going through a strategic planning for inclusion efforts with former Task Force Co-Facilitator Kathy Quick and Mariah Levison, Manager for the Bureau of Mediation Services and Office of Collaboration & Dispute Resolution.</p> <p>The next step will be to involve the full Council in determining the use of the \$30,000 budgeted for 2019 to advance "Cultivating a Caring Community".</p>
Budget Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 Budget - \$30,000
Attachment(s)	

Action(s) Requested	Staff recommends a discussion on the use of funds for the 2019 inclusion efforts.
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City of Falcon Heights Cultivating a Caring Community Event and Survey/Service on the Spot (SOS)



February 13, 2019

Background

- City was awarded \$20,000 from the St. Paul Foundation to continue our efforts for inclusion work (request was for \$40,000).

- Funded Activities from the Grant that are completed or on-going.
 - Cultivating a Caring Community Event
 - Rec on the Go
 - Survey/Service on the Spot
 - Community Survey – Present Results on March 13th Council Meeting
 - Mural at Falcon Heights Elementary – Estimated Completion Date of Spring 2019.

Kettering Foundation: Learning Exchange

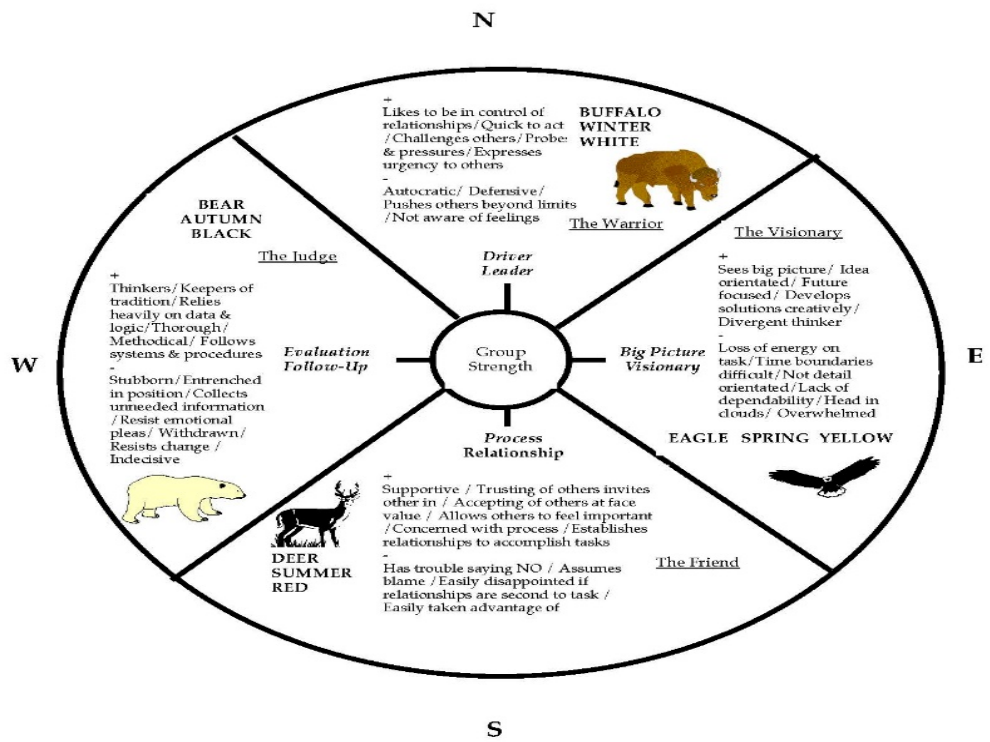
Dayton, OH



Cultivating a Caring Community Event



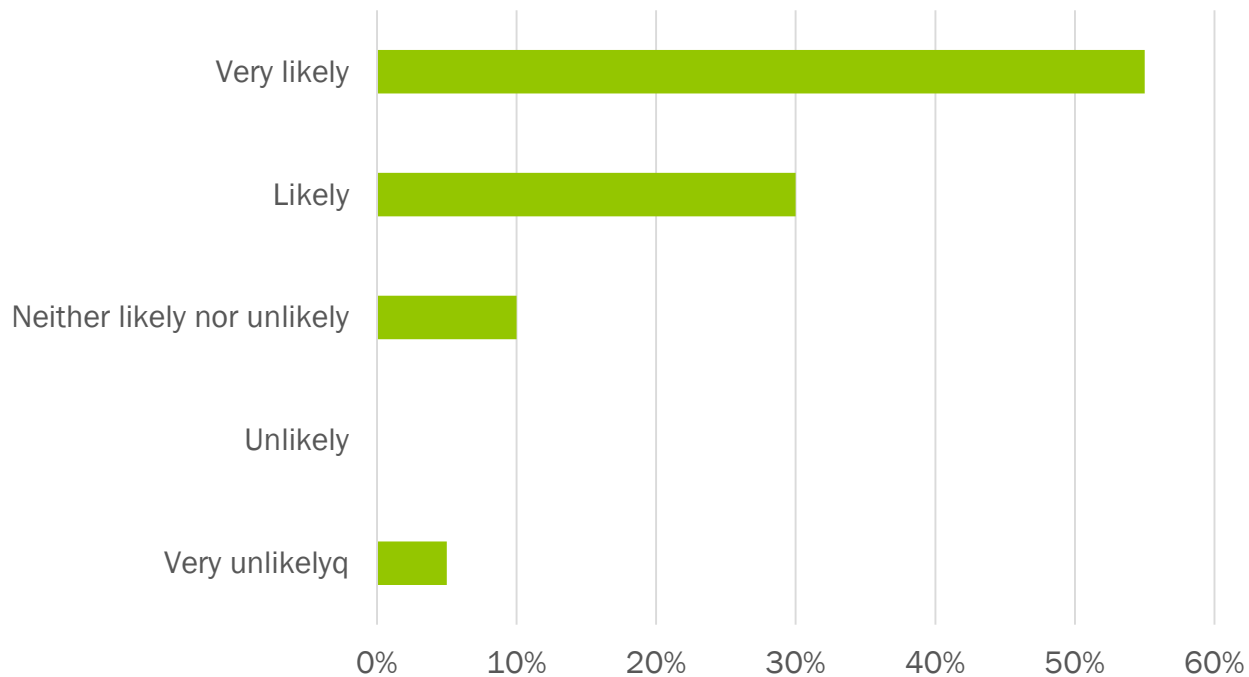
Medicine Wheel



Event Feedback

- 85% stated that they were Very Satisfied or Satisfied

Based on your experience at this event, how likely are you to attend future event?



Themes

➤ What did you like most about the event?

- The Lakota Medicine Wheel Activity
- Speakers
- Interacting with members of the community
- Bringing our community together with other communities that are trying to solve similar problems. Help to get perspective.

“Really Good Group of People, Inspirational”

➤ What did you like least about the event?

- Location: more diverse neighborhood
- Make more interactive
- Lack acknowledgement of oversight of shooting

➤ How do you think this event could have been improved?

- More time – a lot to go through in two hours
- More interactions at the table and mix the table up
- Different day of the week to hold the event

Survey/Service on the Spot

Purpose: Feedback from untraditional methods

Tales of Two Cities by Charles Dickens'

Dicken's opening sentence for Book the First: Recalled to Life

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness"

City One: People that live, work and play in the City

City Two: the 50,000 motor vehicles that go through the intersection of Larpenteur Ave and Snelling Ave

SOS - Survey Completion Coupon

Options ▾

64 Redemptions

Coupon Views

310

Views

194

Unique Views

Coupon Votes

4

Up Votes

0

Down Votes

Action Clicks

2

Call Clicks

7

Website Clicks

3

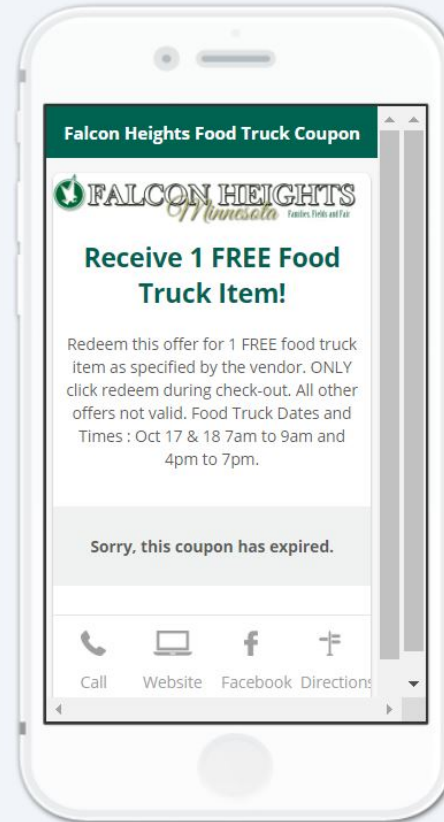
Facebook Clicks

0

Instagram Clicks

8

Directions Clicks



Survey On the Spot

FOOD TRUCKS THIS WEDNESDAY + THURSDAY

Complete this card or text "Falcon" to 888-111 for a free food truck item

Please choose one:

- I live in Falcon Heights
- I drive through Falcon Heights
- I work in Falcon Heights
- I live and work in Falcon Heights
- I am visiting Falcon Heights

How much do you agree with the following statements?

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
I feel welcome in Falcon Heights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I feel safe in Falcon Heights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have meaningful connections with people who are different from me.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TEAR HERE

Services On the Spot

Ramsey County Social Services (Housing & other services) - 651-266-4444
 Coordinated Access to Housing and Shelter (CAHS) - 651-215-2262
 Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (Henn. County Only) - 763-591-0100
 Find Local Resources in Times of Need - 211
 NYFS / Northeast Youth & Family Services - 651-486-3808
 CommunityCrimeMap.com - for services calls in your neighborhood

Education:

St. Paul College / A Community & Technical College - 651-846-1600
 MCTC / Minneapolis Community & Technical College - 612-659-6000
 Dougherty Family College of St. Thomas University - 651-962-5000
 Hubert Humphrey Job Corp - 651-642-1133
 Harmony Learning Center (GED/ESL/Citizenship/ABE) - 651-748-6208
 Minnesota Literacy Council (GED) - 651-645-2277

**How could Falcon Heights be more welcoming, safe, or inclusive?
 Please share your suggestions.**

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

(OPTIONAL) May we contact you to talk about these issues?

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Or call City Hall at 651.792.7600

TEAR HERE

Services On the Spot

Jobs:
 St. Paul Workforce Center - 651-539-4100
 U LEAD / Young Adult Employment Program - 651-266-6052

Seniors:
 Senior Housing Inc. - 651-690-3141
 Ramsey County Senior Services - 651-266-3613
 NYFS (Senior Chore Program) 651-486-3808

<https://www.falconheights.org/>
 2077 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN 55113
 City of Falcon Heights 651.792.7600



SURVEY ON THE SPOT FOOD TRUCK EVENT TODAY

TEXT "Falcon" to 888-111

Free Food Item (Vendor's Choice)



CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS

2077 Larpenteur Ave - CITY HALL

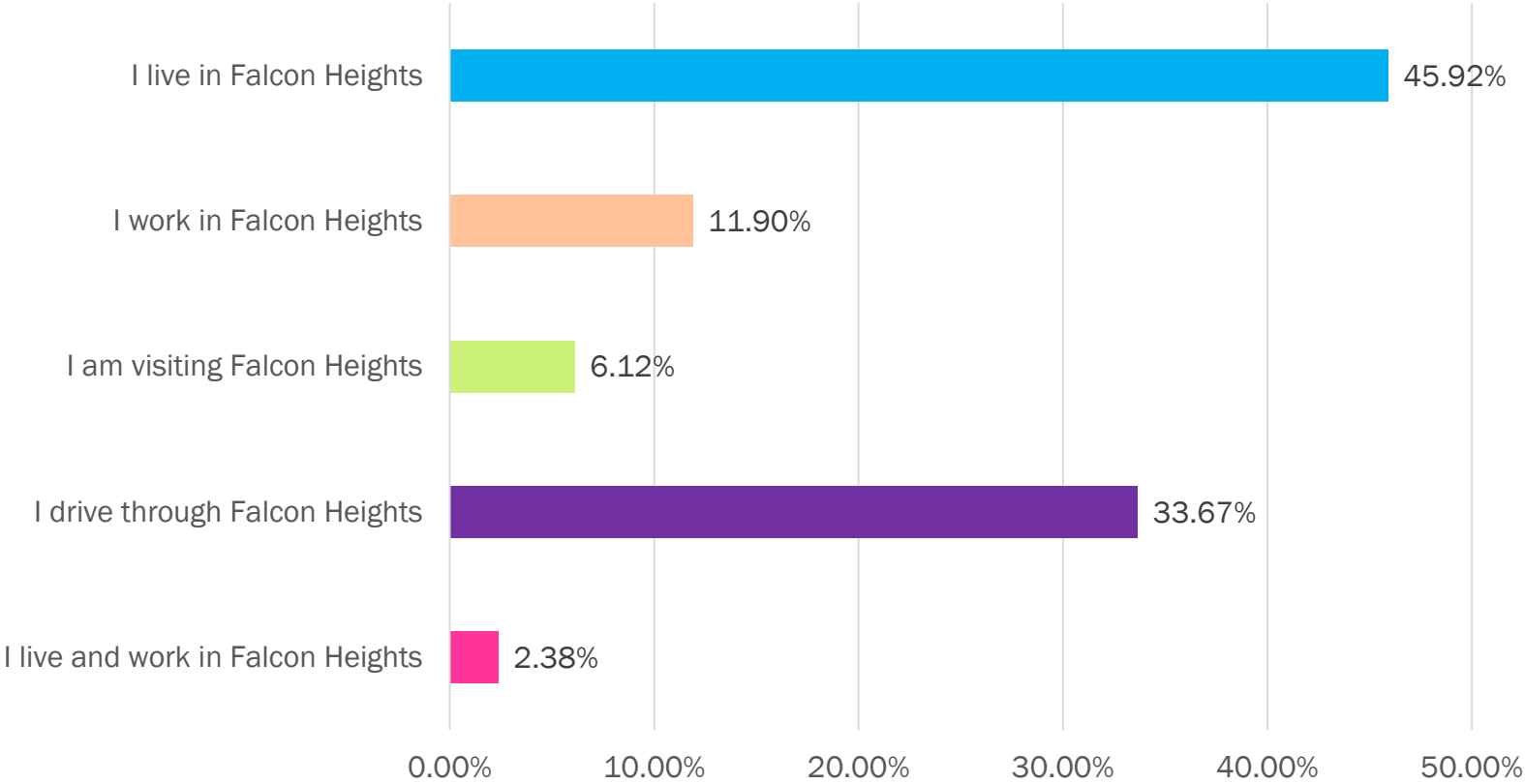




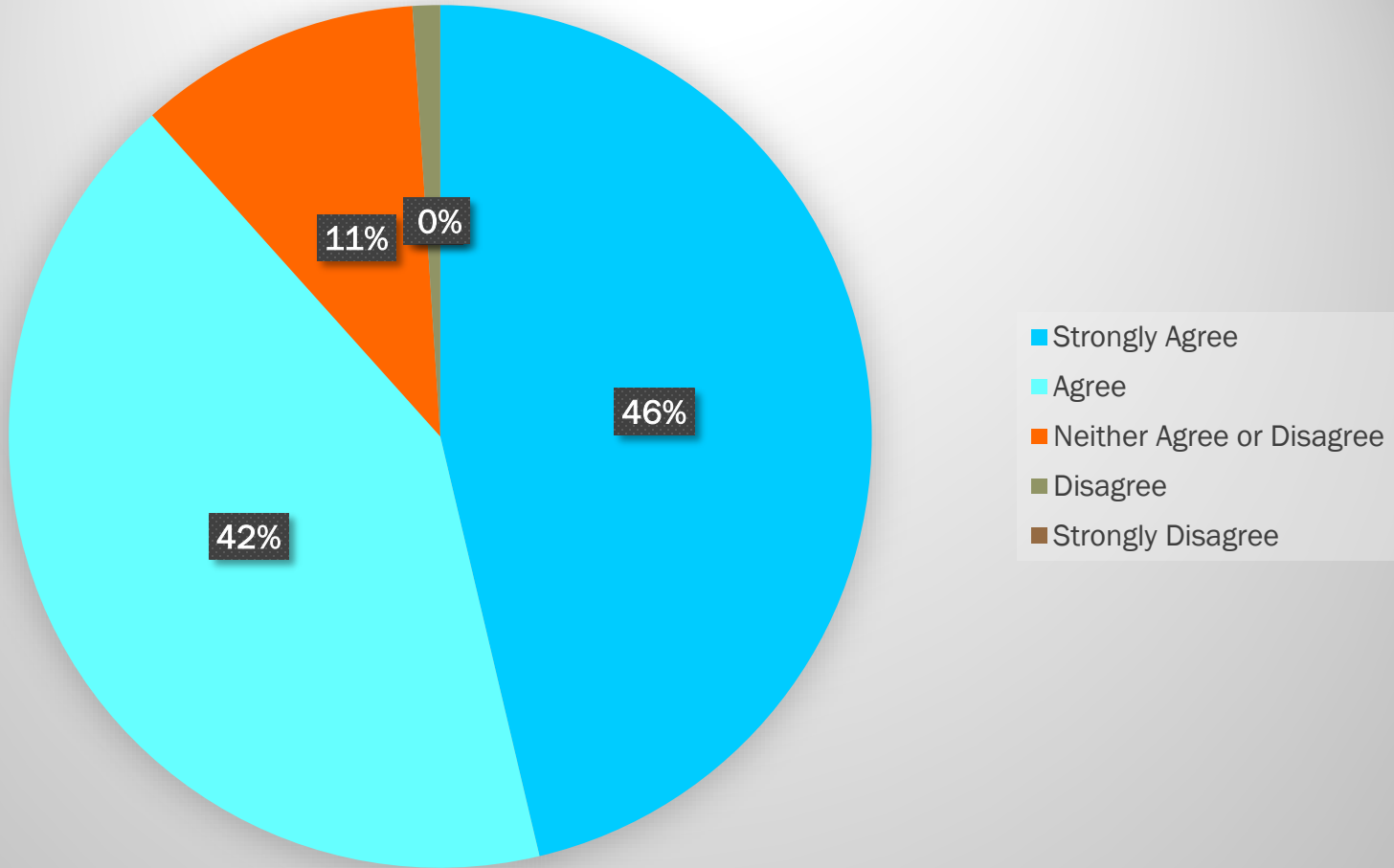


Survey Results

➤ 294 Responses

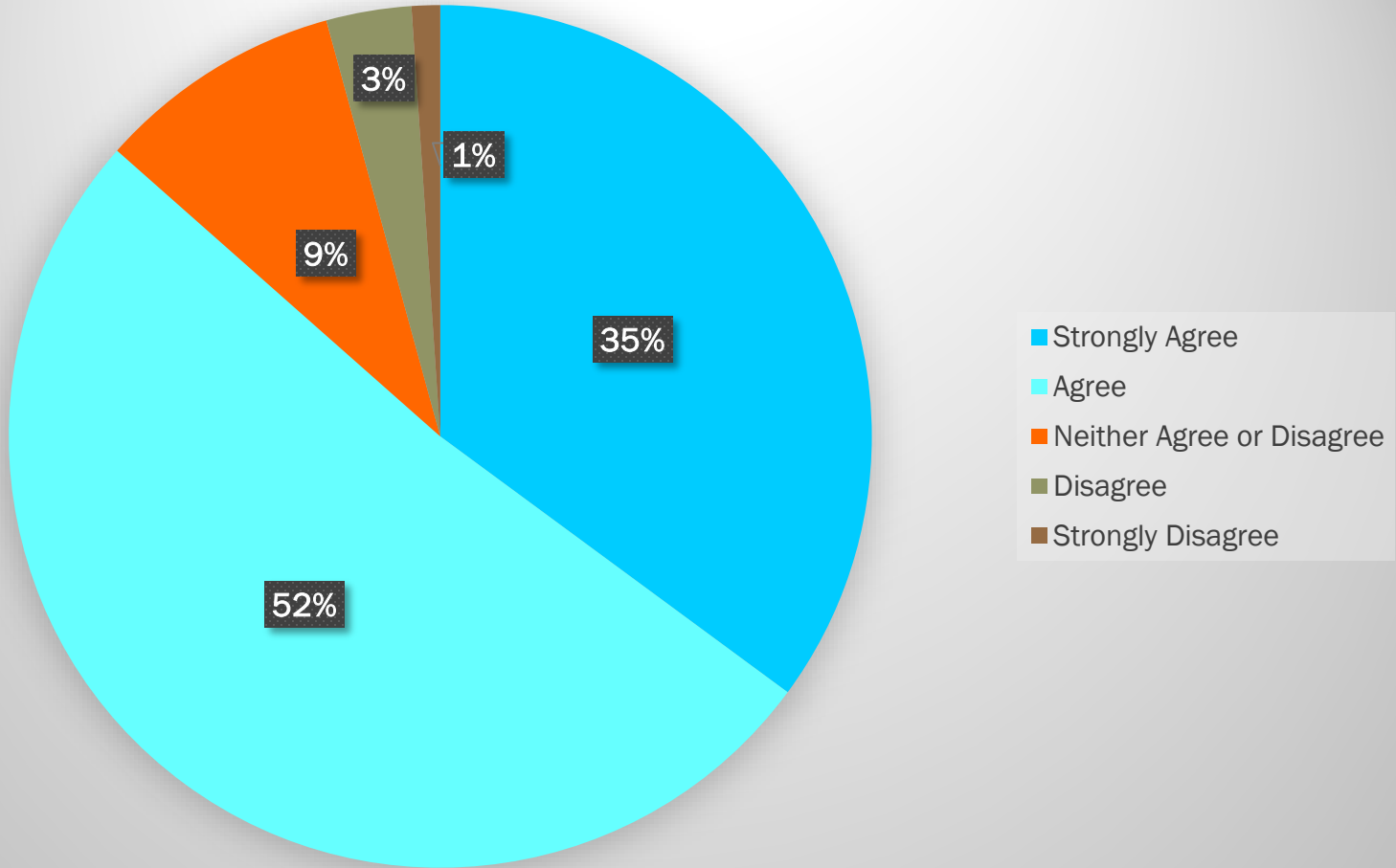


I Feel Welcome in Falcon Heights



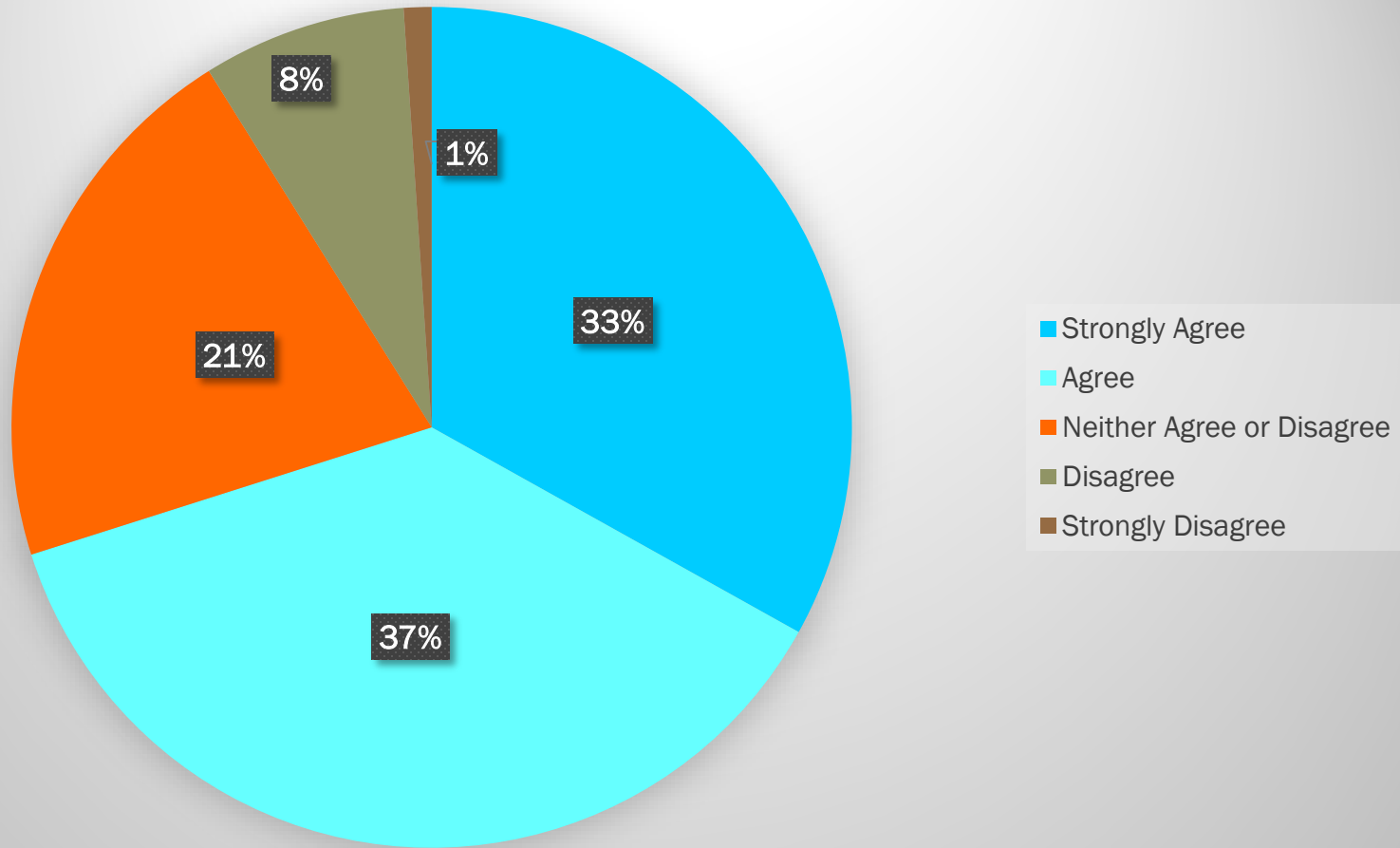
Strongly Agree or Agree: 88.3%

I Feel Safe in Falcon Heights



Strongly Agree or Agree: 86.8%

I Have Meaningful Connections with People Who Are Different From Me



Strongly Agree or Agree: 70.1%

How Could Falcon Heights Be More Welcoming, Safe, or Inclusive?

- Continue to Build Community
- More welcoming/ inclusive events
- More Parks and Sidewalks
 - Garden Ave and to School
- Enhance Tourism
- Connecting Neighborhoods
- The City is moving in the right direction
- More food truck events

“Falcon Heights is a great community. I grew up across from FH and think it is one of the best cities in the metro”

Is There Anything Else You'd Like to Add?

- Coffee Shop near Snelling and Larpenteur Ave
- Enhance safety on Snelling Ave and Larpentuer Ave
- Clean community, need more housing
- Parking during the State Fair

“FH is great! The Mayor is truly exceptional and have you met his son! WOW! He is smart and great..you should meet him.”

THE END

If you have any questions or would like more information:

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator

Phone: 651-792-7600

Email: sack.thongvanh@falconheights.org

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Falcon Heights



Weekly Newsletter

2077 Larpentour Avenue West, Falcon Heights, Minnesota 55113 | 651-792-6000 | <https://www.falconheights.org/>

Inclusion Guest Speaker Part I – “Letters from Jackie”

The City of Falcon Heights had the pleasure of hosting Ron Rabinovitz last night for the first of a three series event that focuses on "Cultivating a Caring Community." Ron's story was of an adopted young Jewish boy born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin that became pen-pals with the first African American to play Major League Baseball, Jackie Robinson. When Jackie signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers and started at first base on April 15, 1947, he ended racial segregation in professional baseball that relegated black players to the Negro Leagues since the 1880s.

April 15, 1947, is a day to remember in American history and the impact it had for the Civil Rights Movement. This was eight years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery bus and sixteen years before the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. Jackie was a pioneer and created a path to equality.

I could go on and on about the life of Jackie Robinson and the impact he had on baseball and across the country, but this is a story of true friendship between Ron and Jackie that was tested but never wavered.

If you want to watch the event on video, it will be replayed on the city's cable channel 16 and is available on CTV. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.

“The reminder that we each make a difference in the world by our daily interactions” stated Mayor Randy Gustafson.

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator



(Administrator Thongvanh, Councilor Miazga, Ron Rabinovitz, Councilor Leehy, and Mayor Gustafson)



Ribbon Cutting - Cultivating a Caring Community Mural



*The mural has
been
completed!*

We saw a growth spurt this week in our city's caring community cultivation. On Thursday morning the mural at Falcon Heights Elementary was officially welcomed with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This public art project celebrating cultivating a caring community was led by the fourth-grade students, artist in residence Melodee Strong, art teacher Teri Eiswald and teachers Dana Browne, Meggan Lovick and Sally Schroeder. The project engaged students, staff, families, and community members in the painting process that brought the mural to life on the cafeteria wall. The collaborative effort was commissioned by the City of Falcon Heights and involved Falcon Heights Elementary, School District 623, and grant funding from the Saint Paul Foundation. The mural will be enjoyed by students, staff, families, and visitors to the school for many years to come.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the full story.

Randy Gustafson, Mayor



Cultivating a Caring Community

"HEALING AND UNDERSTANDING"



Valerie Castile
Mother of
Philando Castile and
Activist



John Thompson
Nonprofit Director

Hawa Samatar
Active Resident
Community Volunteer
Planning Commissioner

Saturday, July 6
6:30pm - 8:00pm

2nd Annual
Restoration Day

Falcon Heights City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Ave. W.

Light snacks will be provided by the city

If you have any questions, please contact City Hall
651-792-7600 or mail@falconheights.org

For more information on our speakers, please click on the link below.

[John Thompson's official website](#)
[Philando Castile Relief Foundation](#)

[Valerie Castile's Bio](#)

Larpenteur Avenue will be a busy place this summer with road construction and the newest building in Falcon Heights taking shape.

Ramsey County crews will be replacing the concrete in all four lanes of Larpenteur Avenue from Malvern Street in Lauderdale to Snelling Avenue. Other work will include catch basin repairs, pedestrian curb ramp replacements, and traffic signal upgrades. In Falcon Heights, the signals at Gortner and Fairview Avenues will be upgraded with new LED bulbs and new flashing left turn lights. Work is expected to begin next week, May 28. Learn more on the Ramsey County [website](#).



The Hendrickson apartment building continues as well. With the first floor framed, crews are working on all aspects of the project. This will include connecting underground utilities next weekend, May 31 to June 3. **Both eastbound lanes of Larpenteur Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Fry Street will close starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31.** The signed detour will use Fairview Avenue to County Road B to Snelling Avenue.

Key Dates

May:

Planning Commission: May 28, 7PM - [Agenda Packet](#)

Holiday:

Memorial Day: May 27 - City Hall Closed

Summer Hours begins on May 28.

Monday - Thursday: 7:30am - 5pm

Friday: 7:30am - 12pm

Have you ever thought about serving on a city commission?

The Parks and Recreation Commission is specifically, in immediate need of commissioners! [For more information, including on how to apply, please click here.](#)

Ice Cream Social & Hot Dog with a Deputy

Thursday, July 18
5PM - 7PM

ICE CREAM | HOT DOGS
BOUNCE HOUSE | MUSIC
GAMES | COMMUNITY GROUPS

COMMUNITY PARK
2050 Roselawn Ave. W
Falcon Heights

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lion's Club and Ramsey
County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Service Division



FREE FOOD!
FREE FUN!

FREE FOOD!
FREE FUN!

Summer Programs

Registrations is NOW OPEN!

- [Registration Form](#)
- [2019 Summer Program Guide](#)
- [CTC - Commonwealth Terrace Residents](#)

School is almost out! Make the
Falcon Heights Parks &
Recreation programs part of your
summer plans! Programs start on
June 10th.



Why do we have Neighborhood Liaisons?

We want to connect residents of Falcon Heights' neighborhoods with each other with the city through the Community Engagement Commission (CEC). Liaisons do this by building relationships to more effectively cultivate a caring, supportive, and inclusive community.

What do Liaisons Do?

- Welcome new residents.
- Promote neighborhood gatherings, block parties, or other activities that work for your neighborhood.
- Be a connector and communicator between the neighborhood and City Council through the CEC.

Want to Know More?

Click [here](#) to read the Neighborhood Liaison Packet.

If you are interested in being a Neighborhood Liaison, then [SIGN UP HERE!](#)



FALCON HEIGHTS
SPRING TOGETHER
June 8, 11AM - 2PM

Hosted by the Community Engagement Commission with support from
Parks and Recreation

POTLUCK STYLE EVENT!

CURTISS FIELD
1551 IOWA AVE W. FALCON HEIGHTS

To honor the spirit of sharing and community, the meal will be potluck and a great opportunity, to meet many neighbors, while enjoying many flavors. Bring your favorite dish to share!
We look forward to seeing you there!

Cookies, bottled water, plates and utensils will be provided.

Games and Activities
Bounce House

City of Falcon Heights
2077 Larpenteur Ave W Falcon Heights, MN 55113, 651-792-7600
www.falconheights.org
Event is weather permitting: 30 of 41
Contact Falcon Heights Weather Hotline: 651-792-7607 or Facebook & Twitter

Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse Program

The Como Park/Falcon Heights Living at Home Block Nurse program provides services and support to residents 65 and better who wish to remain in their home safely and independently. We are a local nonprofit that has served this area for almost 25 years.

No Cost Blood Pressure Clinics: Come meet our RN, Maria! Every 4th Monday, Maria is available at the City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Avenue, for a No Cost Blood Pressure Clinic. **The next No Cost Blood Pressure Clinic is on Monday, June 24, 1:00pm-2:00pm.**

Homemaking Services: Would you like to have a hand cleaning out the basement or has your doctor recommended you limit household activities like vacuuming and mopping the floor? We have Homemakers that will come to your home for housekeeping. This service is \$25/hour with a one-hour minimum. They can come one-time or on a regular basis. Homemakers can also help with laundry, changing bed linens, meal prep, dusting, bathroom and kitchen cleaning.

No Cost Rides to Medical Appointments: We have reliable volunteers that can take you to and from your medical appointments. Must be enrolled in our program to qualify. Call for more information.

Tech Help: Do you have an ipad, smartphone or an electronic device and have questions about using it? We have volunteers that specialize in helping with technology issues. All volunteers have had training and have passed a background check. Call our Volunteer Coordinator to be connected with a tech helper.

For more information about any of our programs or services, please call 651-642-1127 or visit us at www.comobnp.org

Saint Anthony Park Seniors

Saint Anthony Park Area Seniors helps seniors maintain their independence and remain in their homes as long as they wish and that is safe to do so. They provide individualized services (such as rides, chores and shopping trips) for seniors who live in Falcon Heights, west of Cleveland Ave.

Upcoming activities that are open to ALL Falcon Heights residents include:

Exercise classes: Thursday from 2-3 PM at Lauderdale City Hall (1891 Walnut) , Wednesday from 10:30 -11:30 AM at Centennial United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside Ave.) No registration or fees required. NO exercise or chair yoga at the SAP library this week due to preparation for the SAP Art Fair. NO exercise class on May 27 due to Memorial Day.

Blood pressure checks: Wednesday, May 29 from 11:30 AM-noon at Centennial United Methodist Church (2200 Hillside Ave.)

For more information, please visit us at:

<http://www.sapaseniors.org> or

call 651-642-9052

Follow us on Social Media!



FHFD's Facebook



FHFD's Twitter

#FalconHeights #TheCityThatSays #FHFD

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The City That Soars!

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date	June 5, 2019
Agenda Item	Policy D2b
Attachment	Documents
Submitted By	Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator

Item	2019 City Council Priorities - Community Park Improvements
Description	<p>The City will be exploring two funding sources concurrently to help fund improvements at Community Park that include some park amenities and replacement of the main building.</p> <p>Funding Source A: State Bonding Money that will be submitted no later than Friday June, 14, 2019. Projects entered by that deadline will be published on Monday, July 15 pursuant to M.S. 16A.11.</p> <p>Funding Source B: There are two options that need to be explored for the improvements to Community Park related to how the debt service can be funded.</p> <p>Option 1: Tax Abatement for Public Improvements and Facilities – similar to the issue of street improvement bonds that would require the City to pass resolutions and hold a public hearing.</p> <p>Option 2: Referendum –The resolution and ballot question must be sent to the County within 74 days of the election.</p>
Budget Impact	There would have a large and lasting impact on debt service for the next 15 to 20 years to property owners in the City.
Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 Park Master Plan: Click Here to View Plan • Tax Abatement for Public Improvements and Facilities • Pictures of the condition of the Park Building
Action(s) Requested	Staff is looking for direction and which option under Funding Source B the Council would like to explore.



Tax Abatement for Public Improvements and Facilities

Tax abatement is a flexible tool local governments can use to finance public improvements and facilities, including recreation facilities. Municipalities can issue general obligation bonds without a referendum if principal on those bonds is repaid with a tax abatement levy.

What is tax abatement?

Tax abatement is the ability for an individual taxing entity to capture and use all or a portion of the local property tax revenues within a defined geographic area to finance a specified project or improvement. It allows each major taxing jurisdiction to choose to contribute its share of the taxes and limit abatement in any manner it determines appropriate. The taxing entity can grant an abatement without other jurisdictions agreeing to participate. Tax abatement is governed by Minnesota Statutes 469.1812-469.1815.

How does tax abatement work?

In practice, tax abatement is a reallocation of taxes rather than an exemption from paying taxes. The property for which taxes have been abated will continue to pay their taxes in full. The amount of the abatement, however, is redirected to a specific project rather than going to the general fund. To offset the lost revenue, the municipality annually adopts an abatement portion of their property tax levy equal to the amount of abated taxes.

What kinds of projects can be financed with tax abatement bonds?

Tax abatement is a tool that can be used to finance public infrastructure, public facilities including parks and recreational facilities, as well as development and redevelopment projects. The benefited project or infrastructure does not need to be on or adjacent to the parcel for which taxes are being abated.

There are several recent examples of how Minnesota communities have used tax abatement. In all of these examples the communities issued general obligation tax abatement bonds to finance the project, and repaid the bonds in full or in part with the proceeds of an abatement.

- Land acquisition for parks
- Swimming pools and recreation facilities
- Civic centers
- Expansion of major intersections to accommodate new retail projects
- Stoplights for new, market rate housing subdivisions

Bonding authority

The maximum principal amount of tax abatement bonds may not exceed the estimated sum of the abatements for the property for the years authorized. If bonds are issued to provide advance payment of abatements, the amount of abatement is not subject to periodic review by the political subdivision that approved the abatement. Tax abatement bonds are excluded from the calculation of the net debt limit.





What is the process for establishing tax abatement?

After identifying the details of the abatement, including the amount, term and the parcels for abatement, a public hearing with at least a 10 day published notice must be held by each entity granting the abatement. The entity granting the abatement is then required to adopt a resolution approving the abatement. The adopting resolution must include the following: (1) Term of the abatement; (2) Statement of public benefit expected to result from the abatement; (3) Required findings; and (4) Schedule of repayment of deferred taxes (if applicable). This process must be completed by each entity granting the abatement.

What are the findings a community must make to approve abatement?

The entity granting the abatement must make a finding that the abatement benefits to the political subdivision at least equal the costs of the proposed agreement, and that the abatement is in the public interest for at least one of the following reasons:

- Increase or preserve tax base
- Provide employment opportunities
- Provide or help acquire or construct public facilities
- Redevelop or renew blighted areas
- Provide access to services for residents
- Provide public infrastructure
- Phase in a property tax increase, in specific circumstances
- Stabilize the tax base

What is the term of abatement?

If all three taxing entities (city, county and school district) participate in tax abatement the maximum term is 15 years. However, if only one or two of the entities participate, the term is a maximum of 20 years. The term of the abatement must be included in the adopting resolution. If the resolution is silent to the term, the maximum term is 8 years.

What is the maximum amount that can be abated?

In any one year, the TOTAL amount a political subdivision may abate may not exceed the greater of 10 percent of the entity's net tax capacity or \$200,000. In addition, taxes on a parcel may not be abated while the parcel is located in a tax increment district.

How do abatements affect tax levies?

Abatements are special tax levies. The amount of the abatement must be added to the total levy for the current year. The abatement amount must be included in the proposed levy for Truth in Taxation as well as the certified levy.

Where can I get more information?

Contact your Ehlers Financial Advisor at 651-697-8500. A list of Minnesota Financial Advisors and their direct dial numbers can be found under the Contact Us tab at the top of our website at www.ehlers-inc.com.



Community Park Building



Community Park Building



Community Park Building









The City That Soars!

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Meeting Date	June 5, 2019
Agenda Item	Policy D3
Attachment	N/A
Submitted By	Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator

Item	2020 Budgeting Updates
Description	I will provide a brief overview of the budgeting process for 2020. The outcome will include dates, times, and funds to be discussed.
Budget Impact	
Attachment(s)	
Action(s) Requested	Updates