



**New Brighton City Council
Work Session Agenda
New Brighton City Hall | City Conference Room
803 Old Hwy 8 NW, New Brighton , MN 55112
5:00 PM April 28, 2026**

Members of the City Council will attend the meeting in person unless eligible to attend remotely per MN Stat. 13D.02

To participate in this meeting, members of the public may:

- **Attend the meeting in person.**
- **Watch the meeting electronically.** Tune into CTV Channel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast). To observe the meeting as a livestream or a webcast, visit NBMN.info/View-A-Meeting
- **Join the meeting electronically.** Members of the public who need to interact with our public officials about agenda items, City Administration, and matters that are otherwise of public concern to the City Council but are unable to or not comfortable attending the meeting in person, may join the meeting electronically at: <https://newbrightonmn.gov/zoom> (no app needed), by scanning the QR Code on the right, or by using their Zoom app to join and entering: Meeting ID 898 6240 2361, Passcode 867530



I. Work Session Item

1. Youth Community Connectors Update



Agenda Section:	Work Session Item
Meeting Date:	April 28, 2026

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Youth Community Connectors Update

Action Requested: Discussion

Form of Action: N/A or Other

Votes Needed: N/A

Summary Statement:	<p>Equitable community engagement has been a consistent value to New Brighton's leadership and elected officials over the years. Starting in 2023, Admin began exploring the feasibility of a youth group that could help the City extend its reach to pockets of our community that traditional methods thus far have been unsuccessful. There was collective understanding that doing community engagement in partnership with young people offered a number of direct and indirect benefits including, but not exclusive to, engaging more young people, engaging parents and grandparents (from youth buy-in), connecting with more diverse community groups (since they are diverse), and planting a seed for more young people to desire careers within local government (diverse workforce pipeline).</p> <p>Inspired by neighboring cities' youth engagement efforts, the City of New Brighton envisioned a program that would meet our city's needs and capacity: Youth Community Connectors (YCC). The program was created to hire a cohort of young people each year to amplify New Brighton's programs and initiatives through focused outreach, provide a more</p>
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	<p>relational pathway for community members to give feedback on events and services, and strategize more equitable and accessible ways to create and run programs in the future.</p> <p>In August of 2025, the inaugural cohort of Youth Community Connectors started their journey with a week-long orientation week. They met with several departments within the City, received tours, learned about the structure of local government, and practiced speaking and listening skills.</p> <p>Each month, YCC meets in-person as a group to learn about upcoming City initiatives and programs, receive City updates, and make plans on how to reach the community. They spend approximately three hours each month in the community, sharing events, talking to neighbors and friends, and working on YCC projects.</p> <p>It has been an incredible journey so far. YCC is looking forward to sharing with the Council what they've noticed and accomplished. They are grateful that Council supports their work and has decided to expand the program to 12 YCC members for the 2026-2027 YCC Cohort.</p>
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Recommendations:	Listen and ask questions.
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Applicable Deadlines:	<u>None</u>
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Community Impact:	The Youth Community Connectors program has the potential to increase meaningful participation and civic engagement of our diverse community. A more engaged city leads to better alignment of policies, initiatives, and programs, which fosters a healthy and happy multicultural community.
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Legislative History:	
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Strategic Priority:	<u>Community Engagement & Belonging</u>
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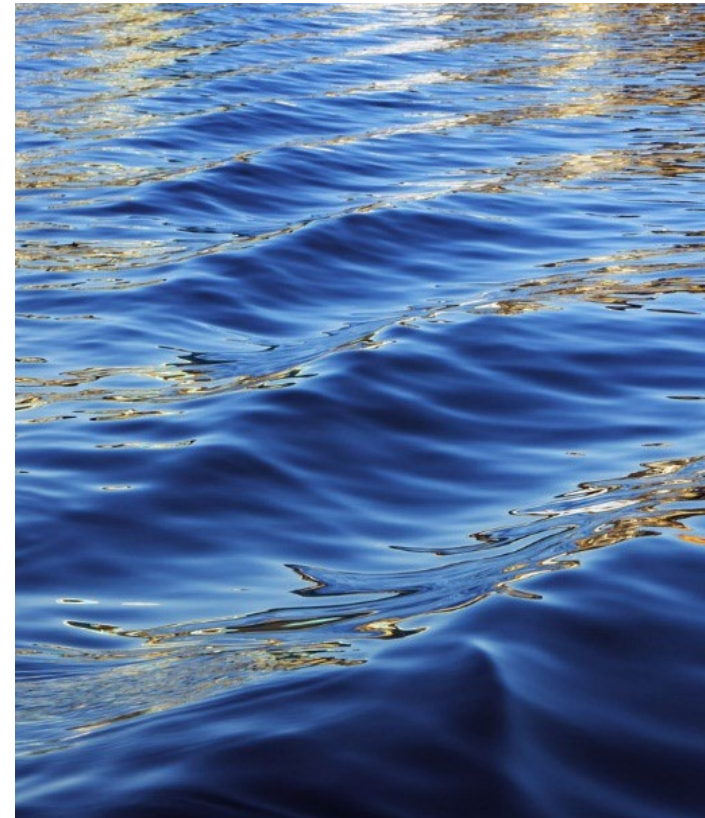
Fiscal Impact:	Financial Consideration?	<u>No</u>
	Revenue/Expenditure Amount:	\$
	Financing Source:	<u>N/A</u>
	Notes:	

Attachments:	1. Youth Community Connectors Update
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Youth Community Connectors Update

City Council Work Session
January 27, 2026



Agenda

- How it Started
- Meet the Team
- Past & Current Projects
- Communication Successes
- Engagement Barriers
- Learnings Thus Far
- Gratitude

How it Started

- **Goals**

- Foster multi-generational community participation and civic engagement
- More representation for youth under 18 (who make up 25% of NB residents)
- Incorporate diversity of thought and diversity of identities into NB initiatives and careers

- **Timeline**

- Internal conversations started late 2023
- Initial concept presented to Equity Commission March 2024
- Supported by Senior Leadership June 2024
- Supported by Council September 2024
- Focus Group with Irondale HS students October 2024
- Application window opened April 2025
- Hired 8 amazing young people out of 41 applications!

Meet the Team



Past & Current Projects

- Learning about City departments
- Recruiting for Commission seats
- Sharing about Pumpkin Walk, hosting a Trunk
- Inviting community members to attend Council Meeting
- Sharing City job postings
- Providing feedback on Resilient Communities Partnership survey, connecting with MHC managers
- Writing Resident Newsletter blurb
- Addressing language shame with “I am New Brighton” video project
- Learning about Metro Transit and how to promote access to public transit
- Promoting Downtown New Brighton survey
- Connecting Native youth with City staff
- Sharing City social media posts



Communication Success

- Social media
- School clubs
- Flyers
- Leveraging second degree contacts (school and community leaders)

Engagement Barriers

- Reaching out to community members outside age group
- Transportation to events
- Language barriers & lack of established representation at events
- Lack of government trust

Learnings Thus Far

- Communication skills
- Group collaboration
- Engaging with community members
- Creative thinking
- Chain of command
- Local government structure, procedures, and limitations
- Avenues to advocate for change
- More cognizant of issues that impact community
- Time and project management

Q & A



Thank you