

**Addenda  
Minnetonka City Council  
Meeting of June 8, 2020**

**ITEM 14E – Ordinance Amending the City Charter to Require the Use of Ranked Choice Voting**

Attached are emails received after distribution of the packet.

**ITEM 14F – Volunteer Services Agreement with Minnesota Off Road Cyclists**

Attached are emails received after distribution of the packet.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Corrine Heine, City Attorney  
**DATE:** June 8, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Change memo for June 8, 2020 city council meeting

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**ITEM 14E – ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER**

Attached are emails received since the packet was distributed.

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:03 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 12:05 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,  
Jack Torborg  
13816 Spring Lake Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-2332  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:04 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com> on behalf of Jan Tift

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].m>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 4, 2020 2:48 PM

**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,  
Jan Tift  
5725 Creek Park Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-5202  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:04 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com> on behalf of Dianne Rundles <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 11:33 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Rundles  
10205 Greenbrier Rd Apt 204 Hopkins, MN 55305-3423  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:05 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,  
Dennis Tollefson  
3000 St Albans Mill Rd Apt 310 Hopkins, MN 55305-3985  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 9:48 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for Moving Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:17 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Thank you for Moving Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

Thank you for voting on Monday to send the draft charter amendment to the 2nd meeting on June 8th.

I actually met a representative of Fair Vote MN at the Mtka farmer's market last summer. The more I have considered this option, the more convinced I am that it provides an alternative to the political polarization that we increasingly find ourselves in. Ranked Choice voting encourages candidates to truly listen to the voice of their constituents and not rely on a narrowly defined base. I am often worried about the impact of my vote, and the concern of trying to gauge whether my first choice is a viable option to win. Ranked Choice Voting offers a great and easy solution to this problem. I urge you to continue to move this important issue and place Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot this November. This issue has been discussed for more than a year with a wide and robust community conversation. The 2020 election, when turnout is expected to be at historic highs, is the best opportunity to have all our residents weigh in on this issue. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Christina Seagren

Sincerely,  
Christina Seagren  
3100 Minnehaha Ct Wayzata, MN 55391-2514  
[REDACTED] [m](#)

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** David Dayhoff [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Support ranked choice voting

Unfortunately I cannot attend tonight's council meeting, but if I could, I would testify my strong support for adoption of ranked choice voting.

The merits of RCV as a better way for candidates to compete for our votes, and for voters to choose between the candidates, stand on their own, regardless of financial considerations. However RCV also presents our city with the opportunity to avoid the actual cash expense as well as investment of staff and volunteer time, for primary elections in which a tiny percentage of eligible voters participate.

Please implement RCV in Minnetonka, thank you.

David Dayhoff

Sent from my iPhone



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 10:38 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Editor: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Is Not The Answer

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stacey Vokrot-mello [REDACTED]  
**Date:** June 8, 2020 at 7:57:31 AM CDT  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter to the Editor: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Is Not The Answer

I was encouraged to read about your reservations of moving quickly forward with RCV in Minnetonka. I share my recent letter to the editor of the Sun Sailor in support of a full exploration of the implications and consequences of changes being proposed to our voting system.

Sincerely,

Stacey Vokrot-Mello

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Stacey Vokrot-mello <[\[REDACTED\]@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED]@[REDACTED])>  
**Date:** June 4, 2020 at 4:50:17 PM CDT  
**To:** [sun.sailor@ecm-inc.com](mailto:sun.sailor@ecm-inc.com)  
**Subject:** Letter to the Editor: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Is Not The Answer

To the Editor:

In response to the recent article (May 14) and editorial (June 4) highlighting Minnetonka Charter Commission's consideration of amending the city charter to move voting to a ranked choice system I would encourage voters to explore this topic further as unintended consequences are likely. The article was absent of any reference to the multiple sources of information, research, and tangible results this system has produced both here and abroad which would suggest a very different outcome than was conveyed by FairVote Minnetonka. Moving to RCV would make it harder for candidates to speak the truth, create a new way of counting ballots that raise additional concerns to an already skeptical public that often question the integrity of existing voting data, and REDUCE not increase civic involvement as only those votes remaining in the final tally round would be counted versus the system we have today which counts all votes cast. If what we are attempting to address is a failure of representation the solution will not be found by altering our voting procedure.

Stacey Vokrot-Mello  
Deephaven

Sent from my iPad

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:27 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** Linda & Michael Halley <[h](#)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Kirk,

We are asking you to vote YES on June 8th to place Ranked Choice Voting on the November 2020 ballot.

We are long time (45 years) residents of Minnetonka who raised our 3 children here ~ all graduates of Hopkins High School.

One of our children, a teacher and her family reside here now as well. We have always been proud to call Minnetonka our home and have voted in every election. We hope to continue living and voting here after retirement.

We support RCV because:

1. It saves taxpayer dollars (eliminates low-turnout primaries)
2. It gives more voter choice with more diverse candidates (no candidate is weeded out prematurely)
3. It is more inclusive (it encourages candidates to reach out to more people)
4. It ensures spoiler-free elections (people are able to support their favorite candidate without worrying they are throwing away their vote).
5. It is an easy to use system.

When looking at change it's easy to say that things are too complicated right now or "things are fine, why change?"

We believe that as great a job as Minnetonka is doing in many areas we should not become complacent and we can always strive to be even better.

Making our elections easier, less expensive and more inclusive seems like a good goal to us and the voters should have the opportunity to make this decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Mike and Linda Halley  
18610 Clear View Drive  
Minnetonka MN 55345

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Gabriel Kaplan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:48 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Testimony on Ranked Choice Voting for Minnetonka City Council Meeting 6/8  
**Attachments:** Minnetonka Testimony on RCV.docx

Hello,

I have attached testimony for the Minnetonka city council meeting tonight, 6/8, relating to ranked-choice voting. I have attached it as a word document, but if you would prefer, I can resubmit it in another format.

Thank you!  
Gabe Kaplan

Dear Minnetonka City Council,

My name is Gabe Kaplan, I'm a 17-year-old and I go to St. Louis Park High School. This past fall, I managed Larry Kraft's successful campaign for St. Louis Park City Council in the city's first-ever ranked choice voting election. Although working on the campaign was certainly a challenge—especially considering my commitments at school and at home—I think ranked-choice voting simplified the process not only for Larry and me but also for the voters.

The race included three incredible candidates, and the new system gave St. Louis Park residents the chance to make their voice known even if their candidate received the lowest share of the vote. As we first began door-knocking in early September, I worried it would be difficult for voters to understand, but everything went smoothly. It usually wouldn't take more than a minute to explain the process and I feel the majority of voters I encountered at the door were encouraged by the city's adoption of ranked-choice voting. Nowadays, it feels increasingly as if we only ever have two real options in any given election. Voters are constantly told that their votes and by extent, their voices, only matter if they choose between the top two candidates. Via the adoption of ranked-choice voting, we are able to break out of this binary. There are no more wasted votes as individuals are able to choose their first choice, regardless of concerns of electability, while knowing their vote will still make an impact as long as they note their second choice as well.

To me, it feels as if opposition to ranked-choice voting mainly comes from those who do not truly understand it or haven't experienced it. Some say it's too complex, but I would argue just the opposite. When voters go to the polls under ranked-choice voting, they choose who they like—that's it. No more fears of wasted votes or electability or anything of the sort. Sure, the ballot itself may take up a little extra space and may look a little different, but I think it's incredibly unfair to claim ranking candidates is too complex a task for voters.

In addition, those who enjoy the current format of voting can just as easily vote only for their top choice under ranked-choice voting, just as before.

Although I am not old enough to vote yet, I sure hope that when I do get the chance to do so, it will be with ranked-choice-voting. It has worked well across the metro, from Minneapolis to St. Louis Park, and I hope Minnetonka takes the right step in adopting ranked-choice voting as well. I truly believe it is not only the fairest and simplest form of voting but also the only viable format to ensure all voters are heard.

Thank you for your time!

Gabe Kaplan.

2828 Sunset Blvd

Minneapolis, MN 55416

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Kyle Salage  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Participating in the 6/8 Virtual City Council Meeting  
**Attachments:** RCV Comments\_Ben Gozola.pdf

Corrine,

In lieu of calling into the meeting tonight, Mr. Gozola submitted the attached comments to be included in the addenda for the RCV ordinance item.

**Kyle Salage** | Elections Specialist  
City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](http://minnetonkamn.gov)  
Office: 952-939-8218

**From:** Ben Gozola <b[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 1:14 PM  
**To:** Kyle Salage <[ksalage@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:ksalage@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Participating in the 6/8 Virtual City Council Meeting

Kyle,

Please share the attached with the City Council and include it in the public record for the Rank Choice Voting agenda item tonight.

Thank you!

Ben Gozola  
[REDACTED]  
952-994-5181

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

6/8/20

RANK CHOICE VOTING

Honorable Mayor and members of the City Council,

Virtual meetings rob the public of being able to show our support via numbers in City Hall, so please accept my comments via email in favor of having Rank Choice Voting on the upcoming ballot in November.

Every voter wants to have a TRUE choice when they enter the voting booth, and rank choice voting gives that power to everyone regardless of political affiliation.

Every voter right now hates the negative ads in election cycles, but those are NOT going to subside until negative campaigning comes with a consequence. Under rank choice voting, a candidate isn't going to get second place votes by focusing just on the perceived negatives of their opponent.

Every voter wants their elected officials to make fiscally responsible decisions, and rank choice voting hits that goal. In an RCV election, there's ALWAYS a winner supported by a majority of the votes. If the first-place ballots don't get a candidate over the 50% threshold to win, the second-place votes will tell us who has the support of a majority of the electorate.

And finally, even if you don't like RCV for whatever reason, let us the voters decide whether to implement it. By design as a Charter City, Minnetonka citizens have reserved the right to have more of a say in the functioning of our local government. This ordinance is before you tonight because your constituents as a whole should be given a chance to vote on the best way to run our elections.

Thank you in advance for supporting this ordinance,

Ben Gozola  
12811 Sherwood Place, Unit 3  
Minnetonka, MN 55305



PS: I would also like to extend a thank-you to anyone who attended (in person or in spirit) the peaceful protest near Ridgedale last week in remembrance of George Floyd, and in support of our local communities of color. I, for one, commend City Manager Barone and Chief Boerboom for acknowledging and acting on their responsibility to demand equity in all aspects of City Business, and for not letting this moment in history pass by without change that's long over-due. Thank you.



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 2:38 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice  
**Attachments:** RankedChoicVotingMtka.pdf

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**From:** Bruce Schultz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:21 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice

Hello Mr. Mayor,

I have to hand it to the ranked choice proponents who call themselves, "Fair Vote MN." Pretty hard to be against fair voting. But, there is more to their agenda than that. Attaching here my quick ranked choice document from our conversation in February.

I appreciated your comments in the recent Council meeting when you expressed your belief that this is a solution in search of a problem.

In all my years of living in Minnetonka I have never really known the political persuasion of the individual council members. And I think that has been one of the great strengths of our city because our local governance was not greatly influenced by political parties. That no longer seems to be the case.

My best,

Bruce Schultz  
17701 Breconwood Road  
Wayzata, Mn 55391

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Mary Kirchhof <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 6:14 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Rank Choice Voting

We are emailing what we will say tonight at the City Council meeting so that it's part of the meeting record.  
Thank you,  
Cal and Mary Kirchhof

This Cal and Mary Kirchhof calling in to support Rank Choice Voting on the ballot this November. We are retired, Cal from a career as a computer scientist and I as a teacher and literacy coordinator in a Metro public school district and were both adjunct instructors in higher education. We are 33 year residents of Minnetonka, raised our children here, and have never missed voting in any election. I am a Minnetonka election judge.

We first learned about Rank Choice Voting from the League of Woman Voters and after researching it became committed to working for rank choice voting in Minnetonka. Relatives and friends in New York City, Minneapolis and St Louis Park have shared it is an easy process and allows inclusive representation in their communities.

We have watched council seats needing replacement council persons here in Minnetonka and been gratified by all the people who have wanted to run and serve. Rank Choice Voting gives more of those people the opportunity to get their message out for elections when more people are voting than in primaries. It gives us voters a chance to learn more about the issues from a variety of candidates and share our ideas, concerns with them.

We become more knowledgeable about our local government prior to elections After the election we would know that the candidate who represents us does so with the majority of the vote from a wide range of voters.

In Minnetonka primary voting which has been very light would not be necessary and rank choice voting would save election dollars.

Minnetonka Council has been a leader in climate change, parks and community livability. With the challenges in our current world this is a great time to put Rank Choice voting on the ballot. We believe this is the time to lead in democratic principals of citizens deciding on the best form of voting in their elections. With Rank Choice Voting on the ballot in November, when large numbers will vote, more Minnetonka citizens will be able to decide how elections will best be held in our community.

**From:** Mary Pat Blake [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:45 PM

**To:** Corrine Heine <[cheine@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:cheine@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** For the Meeting Record of City Council Meeting 6-8-2020 - Public Comment of Mary Blake on RCV

Hello, Corinne,

Thank you for your steady service to our city. We appreciate you and all you do.

I was a remote speaker on topic 14 E on Ranked Choice Voting at the City Council meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. My comments are attached to be included in the meeting record. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thank you.

Mary Pat

## **RCV Is Easy to Learn – Public Comment by Mary Blake at Minnetonka City Council Meeting 6-8-2020**

My name is Mary Blake. I grew up in and live in Minnetonka at 14800 Wychewood Road. I am President of Blake Strategic Consulting for the past 20 years. I am also a member of the Board of Overseers at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Thank you, Mayor and City Council for your service.

I support putting Ranked Choice Voting on the November 2020 ballot so our voters can vote on it. I urge the Council to vote “yes” tonight on the ordinance under review and keep this moving forward to a vote by the people in November.

It has been said by some members of the City Council and the Minnetonka Charter Commission that they wonder if our citizens, and especially our seniors, would understand how to vote with Ranked Choice Voting.

People learned how to vote this way when they were kids ranking their favorite baseball cards in order, or their favorite books from the library: this one is my favorite, then that one is my second favorite, here’s my third favorite, and so on.

A case in point: last summer, I volunteered for over 28 hours at our Minnetonka Farmers Market at an information booth for Ranked Choice Voting. In 28 hours of meeting the public of all ages, there wasn’t ANYbody who didn’t understand how to vote using RCV after a one minute introduction. They then practiced it themselves with a mock ballot vote. Seniors got it. Kids got it. Everyone in between got it. Many people spouted the benefits of Ranked Choice Voting before I could even say them. THEY GOT IT.

And many WANTED IT in Minnetonka. They liked the ideal that there is wisdom in the majority. With Ranked Choice Voting, a candidate needs 50 percent plus one to win an elected seat. This means a candidate must go beyond just his or her supporters and pay attention to other citizens too.

It’s been suggested by several council members that there may be an extensive educational effort required to teach our Minnetonka voters how to vote using Ranked Choice Voting. In my experience, it took on average a minute to explain it and of that minute, about 10 seconds to understand the new ballot format. Yes, there would be an educational component but it is not extensive, and volunteers would be happy to help with it.

Consider this:

1. The people of all ages in Minneapolis and St. Paul have been voting with Ranked Choice Voting for a decade. Are the people of Minnetonka any different or less sharp than those in our major cities? I think not.
2. Seniors – and virtually everybody – are using the principle of Ranked Choice Voting in their everyday lives. They rank what they’d like for dinner tonight, and what they want to watch on Netflix tonight, in priority order.

The voting ballot in an election is just as easy to understand: first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on.

In summary, please allow Minnetonka voters to vote on Ranked Choice Voting on the November 2020 ballot. Let the voters of Minnetonka decide. Thank you.

**From:** Kathleen Kaysinger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:39 PM  
**To:** Kyle Salage <ksalage@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder: Participating in the 6/8 Virtual City Council Meeting

Thank you for following up.

I am submitting my comments to amend to last evening's City Council meeting in support of Rank Choice Voting. If I should submit in another manner, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Kathleen Kaysinger  
4754 Winterset Dr.  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

#### 14E Public comments – rank choice voting

Hello. Thank you for allowing me to provide input. My name is Kathleen Kaysinger, RCV 8-Jun and my family have been Minnetonka residents for nearly 20 years.

I support rank choice voting and encourage you to put the option for rank choice voting before Minnetonka voters in November-2020. I believe that we must engage the community better in terms of voters, and as a mother of 2 young adults, this especially includes engaging young folks to vote. Establishing voting as a civic duty early in life is much more likely to result in a lifelong habit.

To this end, I was shocked to learn in a recent city council meeting that only 4% of voters vote in primaries. Truly concerning in terms of getting the most representative people to serve our community.

Rank choice voting allow the voters to be more engaged in, really, every election, more vested in the process. Our votes will definitely matter. It will no longer be the case that someone can say, "oh, my favorite can't win so why vote". No- all votes matter now. Voters will have "skin in the game". We become participants in a different way that we have with our current system. I believe that this will draw voters, especially young voters, to make a repeated commitment to vote.

I understand that 85% of Minneapolis residents have said that they want to continue to use rank choice voting – an overwhelming ringing endorsement.

Given that Minnetonka is considered a progressive city, I hope that we can join Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Louis Park and maybe soon other nearby cities in using this system.

I hope to see this issue put before the Minnetonka voters in November-2020.

Kathleen Kaysinger  
4754 Winterset Dr.  
Minnetonka, MN 44353

**From:** paula ramaley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine <[cheine@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:cheine@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** RCV statement for City Council Minutes

Dear Ms Heine,

Please find attached the written (slightly expanded) version of my statement made in support of Ranked Choice Voting at the 6/8/20 Minnetonka City Council Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

--

Paula Ramaley  
17306 County Road 101 West  
mobile: [REDACTED]



To: Minnetonka City Council Members

Re: Ranked Choice Voting – written version of remarks to City Council during meeting of 6.8.20.

Date: June 11, 2020

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My name is Paula Ramaley, I'm a Minnetonka resident of ward 3, homeowner and mother of 2 children – one still at Minnetonka High School. After graduating from St. Kates, I worked in international education for 25 years and lived in the Soviet Union, post-Soviet Russia, New York and Washington, DC before moving back to Minnesota in 2006. I'm the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of my family to live in Minnetonka or Wayzata, live in my childhood home, and have deep roots in the community - which is why **I strongly urge the Council to put the issue of Ranked Choice Voting on the November ballot.**

**Minnetonka is a wonderful city, but we should always strive to be better.** The last weeks have shown the need for broader engagement and diversity in our civic life and institutions – and that includes here in Minnetonka where **we have shockingly low voter turnout for city primaries and elections -- and also low numbers and diversity among candidates.**

**Now is the time to lift up more candidate voices and viewpoints, and encourage them to be considered by more people.** The Council has reviewed facts, studies and lived experience showing the benefits of RCV:

- **That it leads to a greater number and diversity of candidates and viewpoints** which are **heard by more people** -- because they are in the public arena right up until election day, and you've seen how this in turn **leads to greater voter engagement and turnout** in terms of both voter numbers and diversity.
- **How RCV ensures that the candidate with the most support wins and that people can vote their hearts** without worrying about 'throwing away' their votes
- **How RCV also leads to greater civility in candidates and elected officials** – because divisive rhetoric and tactics become more politically risky under RCV. Instead RCV usually rewards civility, listening to different viewpoints, seeking common ground and coalition building.

**Some may say things are fine as they are or that it's not the time for change.** I would respond that I lived in 2 cities in a Russia that desperately wanted democracy -- and saw it slip away as diverse viewpoints and engagement were steadily eroded. **I've seen first-hand how important it is to nurture a vibrant local democracy -- because how our cities work sets the tone and expectations for our county, state, and nation.** After much thought and study, I'm

convinced that RCV is a simple and cost-effective way to significantly improve small d democracy in Minnetonka.

**In an earlier council meeting some members questioned the ability of voters to receive and absorb information about this issue, as well as staff's ability to produce required estimates and materials during a pandemic.** Regarding the latter, I would suggest that many organizations are successfully dealing with both Covid-19 and their regular functions. I believe we can trust the expertise and capabilities of Minnetonka's truly excellent manager and staff to do the same.

**Regarding providing access to info on this issue** – in addition to the Minnetonka Memo and community newspapers, notices with links to information can be circulated via social media groups such as Next-Door, as well as churches and other community organizations with online programming, social media presence, and newsletters. Physical notices or materials can be distributed and posted at the Minnetonka Farmers Market and local businesses, as well as senior housing complexes and similar facilities. I am sure that volunteers would be happy help with this as necessary and do so in an even-handed way

**In terms of absorbing info** - I would submit that Minnetonka residents have more time and opportunity to become educated on this and other municipal issues in the coming months because responsible people are limiting their social and other unnecessary travel activity. The high turnout accompanying the national election means greater attention to elections and issues at all levels – including the local level. This is yet another reason that this November is **precisely** the time to put RCV on the ballot.

I trust Minnetonka's excellent City Manager and staff to produce necessary information about RCV, ways to ensure it reaches all Minnetonkans, and why voters should have plenty of time to evaluate it before November 3. But I will end my remarks here by noting that the national election will bring greater political engagement at all levels, which is why now is precisely the right time to put RCV on the ballot and I strongly urge the Council to do so.

**Thank you for this opportunity to address the Council and your consideration.**

And special shout out to council members who responded to my email message – Ward 3 Councilman Schaeppi and council members Coakley and Kirk (who don't even represent my ward). I very much appreciate your responsive leadership and spirit of service -- and indeed the work of all on the City Council and staff.

Sincerely,

Paula Ramaley

# Ranked Choice Voting

Rank Choice or  
Rank Power Grab?

# Promises of RCV

- The promise of reduced gridlock (Does Minnetonka have any?)
- The promise of compromise and building governing coalitions (But, doesn't it allow for one group to "flood the market" with candidates — thereby assuring partisan strength?)
- The promise of more voices (But how about the potential for candidates with marginal support to win?)
- The assumption that something is broken, and the promise to fix it (Will it, or will it only create a more burdensome process?)  
Promises a better outcome (But, don't most Americans believe in a binary vote?)

# Promises of RCV

- Promise of more robust debate (But now, all the candidates pretty much fail to distinguish themselves on policy — pabulum over policy!) Smaller field actually helps clarify positions.
- A more fair and just election is promised, but in my view, it tends to disenfranchise voters — what's wrong winners/losers?
- Promise of cleaner elections (But, this potentially puts voters in an odd position of guessing which horse to put their money given the field and the conditions, rather than voting for their true choice)

# Who is Behind This?

- David Schultz spoke on behalf of it, although he feigned being “neutral” He definitely leans left. (I thought Mtka local elections were historically party neutral, but sense a growing leftward partisanship...)
- We are seeing more and more hinting at issues that historically have been handled at the State and Federal level. Most local residents want the basics, but it “feels” we are slipping into a broader interpretation of municipal governance proposed by those whom favor growing government. (I.E the creation of a new environmental initiative)
- “Progressives are floating yet another election reform: Ranked-choice voting. It’s an idea so bad, even some dyed-in-the-wool liberals reject it. **Former California Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a bill expanding ranked choice voting because it is “overly complicated and confusing” and “deprives voters of genuinely informed choice.”** — Washington Times

# Who Endorses This?

- Amal Ibrahim: Running for MN House 60A — Long-time progressive activist: Favors free college, loan forgiveness, climate change initiatives and environmental justice — Green New Deal for Minnesota, Fully fund public housing
- Zachary Wefel: Running for MN House 60A — Democratic activist: Equality and Empowerment, election reform, etc.
- Sydney Jordan: DFL/Labor Endorsed for, you guessed it, MN House 60A: “Conversion Therapy is fraudulent and abusive” Will work to undo MN restriction on abortion. Virulent in her disdain for the American president.
- Sonia Neculsecu: Interestingly, another MN House 60A candidate: Minnesota Green New Deal, Long term vision of abolishing police, Four Years free education for undocumented and former felon students, and while you’re at it — let’s cancel ALL student loan debt — and decriminalize sex workers!

# But, Wait There's More

(This Will Be Oh, So Costly)

- At a time when Minnetonka residents have seen significant increases in their property taxes, “fixing” this non-problem will require more city dollars than a traditional vote — it has to — it will require education, and city resources
- But in the end, the real cost won't be found on a property tax bill, but in the fundamental altering of Minnetonka from a gloriously non partisan civic-minded council of men and women into a body seeking a leftward shift in governance — seeking to “balance the scales of equity” by placing a heavy hand on one side.





14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | [eminnetonka.com](http://eminnetonka.com)

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kelly O'Dea, Recreation Director  
**DATE:** June 8, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Change Memo for June 8, 2020

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**ITEM 14F – Volunteer Services Agreement with Minnesota Off Road Cyclists**

Feedback was received after the packet was distributed. These emails are attached.

**From:** jingram-mn  
**Date:** June 5, 2020 at 7:54:18 AM CDT  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ben Marks  
**Subject:** MORC Volunteer Agreement

**Mr. Mayor and Council Members,**

My name is Jeff Ingram. I live at 14400 Lennell Drive. Sorry for the mass email but I thought the timing and content of this was pertinent to this discussion and wanted to share it with the entire Council.

Early yesterday morning, trail users of the MORC maintained multi-use trails in Theodore Wirth discovered that a snapping turtle had laid eggs in the trail bed overnight. The trail was immediately closed (post from the MORC trail status website below). Within hours, a barrier was erected around the spot, signage was put up and the trail was moved to protect the spot.

These actions show the strong commitment of the local MORC volunteers to protection of the environment and the species of wildlife that share the parks we enjoy. It also suggests to me that there may be an area of common ground between the Advocates and the Friends in the protection of the environment. MORC volunteer opportunities are not restricted to mountain bikers and membership is not a requirement to be involved in the monitoring, maintenance or building of the trails. The FOLL are welcome to join the other residents on the MORC volunteer teams. The more eyes on the trail the better. I know they would also be welcome to join Advocates and other residents in the restoration efforts starting this week. Working together in Lone Lake Park could be beneficial in the healing process. I'm signed up.

Thanks for your time, and your support for the trail development. The post and a Facebook video from MORC/MOCA showing the trail modification are attached below.

Jeff

**Trail Condition:** Tacky  
**Date Posted:** Yesterday @ 08:54 AM

**Details:** All sections are Open EXCEPT FOR BROWNIE LAKE!!!

A snapping turtle has built it's nest right in the middle of the single-track right at the north exit where it crosses the sidewalk along Wayzata Blvd.. Until we can block it off or re-route the trail, the entire section is CLOSED!!! Gates are closed and locked!

Please honor this section closure!

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2612443388996919&id=1379494488958488](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2612443388996919&id=1379494488958488)



**From:** Linda Russell

**Date:** June 5, 2020 at 1:54:24 PM CDT

**To:** Brad Wiersum <[bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Brian Kirk <[bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Deborah Calvert <[dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Susan Carter <[scarter@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:scarter@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Bradley Schaeppi <[bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Rebecca Schack <[rschack@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:rschack@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kissy Coakley <[kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov)>, Kelly ODea <[kodea@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kodea@minnetonkamn.gov)>

**Subject:** MOU with MORC remarks

Dear City Council Members, Mayor, and Mr. O'Dea,

I have read the latest version of the MOU with MORC, and I would like to respond to several items.

First, let me say thank you to you all for allowing more time to get this important document right. I have had a few conversations with Kelly O'Dea, and he's been most receptive to our thoughts, as well as a good listener. Thanks, Kelly, for that.

I also am happy that some of our concerns have been taken seriously. For example, I'm glad that the city will do some much needed maintenance in Lone Lake Park. I worry, however, that the actual underlying issues with having the staff and the time to do this maintenance are not addressed. I still don't see how this perhaps understaffed department will be able to take on additional work maintaining this trail.

Probably my biggest concern at this point is that the Use Agreement is not yet available, and since the MOU and the Use Agreement should work together, it seems premature to vote on the MOU without seeing the metrics/accountability section of the the Use Agreement to make sure everything lines up. I have not seen any explanation as to why this MOU needs to be approved now; construction doesn't begin until September, and having MORC remove buck thorn in the park does not require an MOU.

I still have concerns about the same items that are less clear. I'm going to list them below. I have mentioned them all before, but I think they are important.

- The term "multi-use mountain bike trail for cyclists of all ability levels" excludes all non-cyclists. Cyclists will assume "multi-use" refers to ability levels of cyclists, rather than multiple types of users (walkers, runners, etc). This could lead to conflicts. An explanation of park users would, I assume, be in the Use Agreement, and should be mentioned here, at the very least.
- #1 under MORC Responsibilities is not clear what "features" means. It should be clear that no jumps, rock gardens, nonessential bridges, etc. are part of this trail plan.
- #2, same section, 4th bullet point refers to "alignment changes." This term should be defined and delimited. What kinds of reroutes will be acceptable? Some criteria (mentioned later in the City section) are needed. Details, I'd assume, could be in the Use Agreement and should be referenced here.
- #2, same section, 5th bullet point says MORC will "train and supervise" construction techniques that are approved in USFW guidelines for the RPBB. I doubt that any MORC members are familiar with those guidelines, and so shouldn't be training anyone on them. What if Natural Resources did the training? Or someone from USFWS?

- #3, same section, 4th bullet point says MORC will "transplant" native vegetation. Again, they are not experts, so this should be done under the supervision of the Restoration Specialist of Minnetonka.
- 10th bullet in that section says MORC will "fix minor washout areas." Minor should be clearly defined. In the City Responsibilities, "major washouts" should also be defined.
- 12th bullet refers to Winter grooming, but no decision will be made about winter use until the Use Agreement is developed. This item assumes winter use, which is not a foregone conclusion. Better to state it in conditional terms, i.e., "if the trail is open in the winter..."
- Accountability is still lacking. For example, Item #4 in the same section says MORC "will submit copies of reports...upon the City's request." Why not monthly? Quarterly? Or, this could cross referenced to the Use Agreement for specifics.
- Criteria are lacking. For example, Item #5 in the same section says "MORC will submit recommendations" to the City for trail changes or reroutes. What are the criteria for making such a change? There should be limits. Changing the trail to make it more fun is not an acceptable reason to tear up more habitat. Changing it to avoid erosion or make it safer might be. Details can be linked to the Use Agreement.
- #2 under City Responsibilities still does not indicate that there is a budgetary limit for providing supplies. Certainly there must be a budget.
- Item #4 in that section refers to providing maintenance staff. Given the maintenance staff's limitations in people and time, does the city have some limit of hours in mind for this? Again, this could be cross referenced to the Use Agreement for details.
- #7 in the same section refers to "features." Somewhere there should be an explanation of what features are permitted and what are not permitted. We have been told that no jumps or rock gardens or nonessential bridges will be in this trail design.
- #10 in this section is unclear who is going to remove "hazardous trees," when earlier it states that only the city forester will remove trees.
- #11 is the mention of "major washouts" which should be defined.
- #15 mentions "police patrols." Are these by car or bike? How can police monitor a trail unless they are on bikes?
- #17 mentions "events," which should include examples. It should clearly state that no racing will be permitted.

I would like to be clear that the Friends of Lone Lake Park are not using "delay tactics," but are trying in good faith to be sure this document is the best it can be. That means ambiguities and any statements that are unclear should be amended to make it absolutely transparent what the expectations are for both parties. All stakeholders will be served if the MOU and the Use Agreement are detailed and specific, and have accountability measures spelled out.

So, my recommendation would be to add clarity to the MOU, and then postpone approval of it until the Use Agreement and the MOU can be considered together.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in. If you have questions or remarks, I'd be glad to talk with you. My number is or just reply to this email.

Linda Russell



**From:** JOHN W MIROCHA

**Sent:** Saturday, June 6, 2020 2:20 PM

**To:** Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kelly ODea <kodea@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Subject:** MOU

Mayor, Council Members and Mr. O'Dea,

I cannot support the current MOU with MORC even though it has been "revised." I agree with all of the points in the email from the Friends of Lone Lake Park.

In addition, I feel the need to emphasize that the revision has not addressed my major concerns and what seem to be most of the major concerns that residents have expressed in their letters to you (including the Friends email.) Not addressing these issues leads to a lack of clear expectations for all stakeholders to the park and trail.

1. Many critical terms and phrases need clarification.

- Multi-use mountain bike trail for cyclists is exclusionary to other users.
- Features needs to be clarified to exclude jumps, slides, rock gardens and other "enhancements."
- Trail alignment changes refers to what? Are you talking about small modifications to the existing trail or major rerouting?
- What events will be held in the park and on the trail? We have been told that competition and racing will not be allowed. You need to state that directly or it will look like you may be willing to look the other way on those types of events.

2. The document is still devoid of any sound accountabilities and metrics to gauge whether the agreement is working or not.

- MORC is a financially unstable organization declaring a deficit in two of their past four years.
- MORC already has 100 miles of trails to maintain and there are questions about its ability to even support the trails they have.
- Both MORC and the City leave themselves open to differing interpretations of who is accountable for what and how to measure success. If the MOU is discontinued by either party all of us left in the lurch and the city becomes responsible for trail maintenance.

3. An advisory group needs to be created to monitor the success of the MOU. Membership should include someone from the Friends, neighborhood homeowner associations, a MORC officer, the Ward One council member and a couple at large citizens. Distrust is still high regarding the trail plan and the MOU. The advisory group would go a long way towards addressing the mistrust and building common ground among the stakeholders.

There is still an opportunity to get this right.

John Mirocha, 5423 Maple Ridge CT.

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**From:** Heather Holm <  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 1:23 PM  
**To:** cc: Heather Holm <  
**Subject:** MOU Agreement

Dear Mayor Wiersum and City Council members,

I am emailing in support of the changes, updates, and recommendations prepared and submitted by the *Friends of Lone Lake* for the proposed Lone Lake Park MOU. Some of these changes have been reflected in the revised MOU but many important ones have not. For example, winter riding is open to interpretation, and there are no definitions for what trail features may include or what minor or major washouts may be. At the very least, it would be helpful for the staff to provide an explanation for why some of these changes were not included. Staff did this for the lawn ordinance, also in tonight's packet.

I would also like to express my concern that the MOU lacks any reference to mitigation and best management practices for the rusty patched bumble bee. Referencing the USFWS Guidance is inadequate; the Guidance is not a plan of action, does not address ways to mitigate ongoing trail use and maintenance impacts, and it is NOT a mitigation plan. I have discussed with Leslie Yetka that the Guidance is not adequate and I will be providing her with a summary of comments from bee experts that outline why some of the assumptions and recommendations in the Guidance are problematic. Ongoing maintenance and trail use will have a long-term, continuous impact on the rusty patched bumble bee population in the park. Even harassment of an endangered species violates the Endangered Species Act. Rusty patched bumble bees foraging or nesting in the 53 acre trail footprint will be harassed by the number of trail users, and the projected frequency and intensity of trail use outlined in the Minnetonka Mountain Bike Trail Study.

I have committed to helping draft a separate rusty patched bumble bee training curriculum for volunteers. However, we do not have a mitigation plan drafted for this endangered species. As a starting point, I would like to see a commitment from you to fund new habitat to replace the habitat lost. Leslie Yetka and I discussed the potential of fixing and replanting the pickleball court landscaping. The contractor was paid in full without being held accountable for fixing this landscaping disaster. It is my understanding (and that of the USFWS staff) that the landscaping was supposed to be seeded with native plant species, and would therefore provide additional habitat for the rusty patched bumble bee. We need to either direct immediate funding toward this habitat replacement or hold the contractor accountable for funding the fix. This should not be passed on to staff to fix without appropriate funding. Natural Resources staff do not have the capacity, funding resources, or time to fix bad outcomes because poor decisions were made by contractors, decisions that led to degraded landscapes.

It is premature to vote for this MOU as drafted because we have no mitigation plan, and the forthcoming Trail Use Plan Agreement and rusty patched bumble bee volunteer training plans have not yet been drafted. These four documents should be cross-referenced and presented at the same time.

We are not a boiler-plate MOU or a 'it's good enough' as written City. Lone Lake Park is one of the most biodiverse, longest-restored parks in the metro. It provides critical habitat for an extremely significant population of an endangered species and many state-threatened birds. These trails have been approved. We need to get this process right and we need to work together to minimize impacts. Going forward, I look to your leadership and role as an advocate

for residents to find ways that the whole community can collaborate on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Heather Holm  
15327 Lake Shore Ave



**From:** Jerrold Gershone  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 5:22 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Bradley Schaeppi; Brian Kirk; Deborah Calvert; Kissy Coakley; Rebecca Schack; Susan Carter  
**Subject:** MORC MOU

Dear Mayor and City Council,

In regard to the MORC agreement, I have reviewed the Friends of Lone Lake Park suggested changes and I agree with all of them,

I am concerned that some crucial changes were not adopted. An example is as follows: the MORC agreement was changed to identify the trails as, "multi-use mountain bike trails for cyclists of all ability levels". This change was also made to the trail website page. The way this reads it clearly excludes hikers and runners. Yet the trails have always been represented as true multi-use trails. In fact, the agenda for this meeting (June 8, 2020) states in the 3rd paragraph of background, "The trail will be open to bikers, hikers and runners". The MORC agreement needs to be corrected, as does the web page. Words are important.

I was also interested to learn at the last city council meeting that a separate use agreement is being developed. Why would we not look at both agreements at the same time? They are clearly related. Also, we have not yet seen a mitigation plan for the rusty patched bumble bee. The mitigation plan may specify pollinator expert supervision at some points in the mitigation. This may affect mitigation activities carried out by MORC. The MOU, use agreement and mitigation plan should all be evaluated together.

As I stated in my previous email, I understand that not every city agreement has this level of scrutiny. However, given, the divisiveness of this issue, the representations that have been made and the fact that we're dealing with the 3rd largest population of an endangered species in the state makes this different.

Thank you.

Jerrold Gershone  
13111 April Lane

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**From:** Janet Sandford  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** MOU update

Hi Brian,

I know this is coming in late. We have read the updates to the MOU and still have some of the same concerns as from the original version of the document:

1. The document still lists designing trail features as one of their responsibilities. Features were not supposed to be part of this multi use trail design.
2. Is there a better description of what routine maintenance activities are? Why wouldn't those be identified in a maintenance document?
3. Are the construction schedules talked about in the City of Minnetonka responsibilities the initial construction? If not, why would there be more construction?
4. Is there a definition of a minor washout vs. a major washout?
5. What kind of events would be planned for this multi use trail? There weren't going to be races.

Lastly, the document describes it as a multi use mountain biking trail rather than just a multi use trail. Why when this is listed as a multi use trail does the phrase mountain biking appear in the description?

Thanks,  
Janet Sandford

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