

From: Judy Lewis <Judy@fmct.org>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:32:58 PM

To: Bochenski, Brandon <BBochenski@grandforksgov.com>

Subject: Request for Reconsideration of Ordinance Affecting Fargo-Based Charities

Dear Mayor Bochenski,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of Northern Prairie Performing Arts, dba: Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre (FMCT) to respectfully request you reconsider the proposed ordinance that would disallow Fargo-based charities from operating charitable gaming sites in Grand Forks.

FMCT has proudly operated in Grand Forks since 1996, supporting the arts and community engagement across the region. We currently employ 20 Grand Forks residents who live and work in the city, and we are deeply committed to ensuring that our operations benefit the local community. In fact, over 60% of all funds raised through our charitable gaming efforts remain in Grand Forks.

As a regional theatre, FMCT serves not only Fargo but communities throughout North Dakota, including Grand Forks. Our mission is to foster artistic expression, educational opportunities, and cultural enrichment statewide.

We understand the importance of local governance and economic development, and we share your commitment to ensuring that Grand Forks thrives. We believe that collaboration between cities strengthens our region and benefits all residents. Disallowing Fargo-based charities from continuing their work in Grand Forks could unintentionally harm the very communities we aim to support.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore solutions that preserve the integrity of charitable gaming while continuing to benefit Grand Forks residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,

Judy Lewis

(701) 781-7312

Judy Lewis

Executive Director - Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre

Mailing Address: PO Box 1349, Fargo, ND 58107-1349

[701-781-7312](tel:7017817312)



Lundmark, Sherie

From: Chris Mapes <chris.mapes@dare2standout.org>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Osowski, Rebecca; Berg, Tricia; Weigel, Daniel; Lunski, Tricia; Vein, Ken; Fridolfs, Mike; Sande, Dana; Bochenski, Brandon
Cc: Lundmark, Sherie; Andrew Krauseneck; Pete Bushey
Subject: Proposed Charitable Gaming Changes

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council,

I am reaching out on behalf of Dare 2 Stand Out (D2SO) to share our concerns about the proposed changes to the charitable gaming code, specifically the requirement that 75% of an organization's employees and board members live in Grand Forks County, ND, or Polk County, MN. While we fully support policies that strengthen communities, this particular change would reduce the very impact it seeks to promote by excluding organizations that are already investing in Grand Forks in meaningful ways and those (like ours) that are planning on making some significant investments in the community (through funding raised with charitable gaming).

D2SO is a nonprofit based in West Fargo that is dedicated to inclusion and accessibility in sports and recreation. We are currently in the application process for obtaining our gaming license, which is being done primarily to work with Albatross Indoor Golf Club and help promote adaptive golf in the Grand Forks community.

Through our work since inception in 2022, we have:

- Partnered with Fargo Parks to provide 5 adaptive golf carts and programming for individuals with mobility challenges.
- Sponsored youth sports.
- Donated adaptive equipment to organizations in the FM area.
- Provided scholarships and direct support to families in need.

Our mission has always been to remove barriers so that individuals of all abilities can participate fully in community activities. We have been able to do these things in the FM area through relationships and partnerships that we have been able to develop over many years (as myself and our board members are all active members of the community). We would like to make a similar impact to the Grand Forks community as well but with our limited network in Grand Forks, we would need to leverage charitable gaming to help accelerate timelines to be able to provide these benefits much quicker than in the past. We have been a key supporter of the Buddy Classic to help support athletes with mobility challenges and would like to continue to broaden our scope of impact through the use of charitable gaming.

Charitable impact should be measured by results, not residency quotas. D2SO focuses on providing opportunities for individuals with mobility challenges to participate in sports. Providing opportunities for

individuals doesn't have a "boundary" and we feel that being able to raise funds to provide these opportunities shouldn't either.

The current system already empowers local license holders to decide which charities they host, ensuring only organizations with genuine commitment to the community are welcomed. This safeguard makes an additional residency requirement unnecessary.

We urge the Council to vote against the 75% residency requirement from the proposal and continue welcoming organizations, like D2SO, that are committed to making a measurable, positive difference in Grand Forks — regardless of where our board members may reside.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Mapes

Dare 2 Stand Out, President



Mobile: 701.793.2371

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West Fargo, ND 58078

<http://www.dare2standout.org>

Lundmark, Sherie

From: Andrew Krauseneck <>
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Osowski, Rebecca; Berg, Tricia; Weigel, Daniel; Lunski, Tricia; Vein, Ken; Fridolfs, Mike; Sande, Dana; Bochenski, Brandon
Cc: Lundmark, Sherie; Storstad, Maureen; Feland, Todd; Chris Mapes; Pete Bushey
Subject: Re: Proposed Gaming Changes

Council and Mayor,

I just want to send a quick follow up, prior to your meeting this evening. I watched/listened to your discussion last Monday. I urge you to vote against the proposal before you this evening, and just leave the gaming regulations as they are. You have the authority already, with every application that comes before you, to deny an alcohol license holder from hosting a specific charity in their establishment. When an application is submitted, you can request tax returns from the state, as they would be of public record for these non-profits, and you can see where their funds were allocated in the past. If you don't feel they're keeping enough locally, or would not keep enough locally, you can have that discussion, and ultimately, as a group, you can deny the application at that time. I know Pete, from Horse Race ND, sent you all a letter, explaining the very high percentage of funding his organization contributed back to Grand Forks, during their short time here in town thus far. He also made some very good points about other potential ramifications if this proposal passes through. My urging of you to vote this down is so that we, as alcohol license holders, can make the decision as to what non-profit we want to support. Dare2StandOut, with their home address being in West Fargo, is just about licensed for gaming in ND (over a year long process thus far). Dare2StandOut was started by Chris Mapes, in honor of his brother Danny, with the mission of inclusion and accessibility for all, regardless of a disability (you can read all about them on dare2standout.org). D2SO has proven their ability to fundraise, even without charitable gaming, as they have already successfully fundraised, along with the Fargo Park District, and other partners, to fund multiple adaptive golf carts for the Fargo community. D2SO has been a major sponsor/donor of our event, The Buddy Classic, over the past two years, in our mission of doing the same in Grand Forks, through making golf accessible for everyone. We've already funded a wheelchair accessible golf cart (wheelchair ramp, chair restraints, for a buddy to ride along on the golf course). Now, we're working on funding an adaptive golf cart (VertaCat) through our annual and ongoing fundraising. D2SO wants to get into gaming, specifically with starting in our location, but hopefully other locations in Grand Forks, with the goal of helping fund adaptive golf carts and accomplishing their overall mission now in Grand Forks, like they've already been doing in the Fargo area. They want to get into gaming here, with the intention of keeping the funds raised here in our Grand Forks community. Just because board members and employees are not primarily located in Grand Forks, does not mean the funds raised will not stay in Grand Forks. Also, just because board members and employees are located in Grand Forks, does not mean funds will stay in Grand Forks, and it also doesn't mean an organization's mission is deemed worthy by an alcohol license holder or the community. I urge you to think about what you would be doing by approving the proposal before you this evening. At a minimum, you would be telling me that I cannot host Dare2StandOut in my facility. You would be telling me and the community that we cannot choose to host a non-profit who is committed to accomplishing a very special goal of inclusion and accessibility for our Grand Forks community. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

On Mon, Aug 11, 2025 at 10:04 AM Andrew Krauseneck <> wrote: Council and Mayor,

I want to reach out regarding the proposed charitable gaming changes you're going to be discussing this evening. I've spoken with some of you, but not all, so wanted to send over a quick note. I hope some of the charitable organizations, those who currently offer gaming and those who don't yet, have reached out to give their perspectives, so you get a good mix of opinion on that side. I also hope some of the alcohol license holders have reached out, as I'd be interested to hear what others have to say. Hopefully I'm not the only one sharing my thoughts. I can appreciate what your intent is in this discussion - from what I understand, trying to provide the opportunity for non-profits to more easily get into the e-tab fundraising, so they are able to support themselves more effectively, and you're able to more easily justify narrowing or eliminating tax funding for these groups, saving all of us tax payers money.

My main concern is regarding the potential limit of where charities are based. It seems like it's kind of flipped from last year when this discussion was last had. Brandon, you made a point last year about being careful to not limit it just to Grand Forks groups, and I agree with that point. Becky and I chatted about that then last year, as well. Now it's kind of flipped, and when I heard you all discuss this last week, it seemed like nobody had issue with limiting this. Just because an organization isn't based in Grand Forks, doesn't mean they're not doing work statewide, and also doesn't mean they're not looking to do big things in Grand Forks, specifically. NDAD is a good example, they're statewide - they're big enough to have offices, I believe, in all four major cities. Some groups though, are offering statewide services, but they're not at that scale to have offices in multiple cities. I currently host Horse Race ND in my facility. Their home office is in Fargo, as they have their horse track in Fargo; but, they offer equine services throughout the state. I only agreed to host Horse Race ND though, with the upfront understanding they knew I would be changing to Dare2StandOut, once Dare2StandOut was licensed for gaming with the state of ND. Horse Race ND, even knowing they would be temporarily in our site, decided to give back a ton to our community. They made a cash donation to the GF Park District during the first month they came into town, with the intent of contributing to the mission we've had for adaptive golf (wheelchair bound individuals getting out on the golf course) - something the Park District is also in support of. Then, just in May, Horse Race ND ended up being our largest sponsor for The Buddy Classic, which is our annual fundraiser for our mission of adaptive golf (you can see all about that on our website, if you're interested - I'd love to share with all of you more regarding that, if you'd like). So, even though this Fargo based organization knows they might be temporarily here, they still gave back a ton to our community. Then, the goal of getting Dare2StandOut in our facility for gaming is directly tied to that goal of adaptive golf. Their organization, and formal non-profit, has that exact mission - they've fundraised for a handful of adaptive carts now for the Fargo area. They've also chosen over the last two years to be a major sponsor and supporter of The Buddy Classic. They would like to specifically start helping, even further, to raise more funds to replicate what they've been able to do in Fargo, but for Grand Forks. This is exactly who I'd like to host in Albatross, as I know they'd be directly contributing to the charitable mission in Grand Forks. They wouldn't have to set up an office, or have someone reside in Grand Forks, but they certainly could get into gaming here, and they would certainly then be helping our community immensely. This is why I strongly encourage you to not limit where these non-profits are located. I think you should trust alcohol license holders to not be endorsing a group that isn't looking to contribute or be a part of our community. This is only one example (well, I guess two, with D2SO and Horse Race, but for sure with the long term mission of D2SO); but, I could see other examples coming along as well. And, as you said, Brandon, last year, it wouldn't be great then if Fargo, or other area small towns like Thompson, Grafton, Hillsboro, etc, then, out of retaliation or spite (while juvenile and petty)

say, nope, we're not allowing you Grand Forks charity to come into our bar, now that you've cut us off from your community. Please take this all into consideration.

With that said, while I can't say I'm in full support of the reduction from ten allowable sites back down to five, I can understand how that may make it easier for some small or new groups to break in. With that change, what I would ask - if an alcohol license holder is interested or open to hosting a gaming site, but at the time there are no licensed gaming providers with an open spot, will a charity then be able to go to six, say for a year, or two years, until another group becomes licensed and can take over the site? Also, I just want you to keep in mind - there are going to be alcohol license holders that will just choose not to host gaming, if there isn't a charity they believe in. I don't want to use an actual example, so just for example's sake - say a charity raises money for X - an alcohol license holder fundamentally does not agree with the mission of raising money for X - that license holder isn't then going to host the charity, even if they're one of, or the only charity with an open spot. I don't know how often that would occur, but it certainly could, so I'd just encourage you to check in, maybe annually, with the eligible alcohol license holders who have yet to host gaming - see if it's just because they don't want gaming in their facility, at all, or if it's because there isn't a charity they're looking to support. Again, I'm with you guys on the change to five, to see if it helps new groups break in; but, only if there's a willingness to change gears and open that back up to a higher number, if it ends up not accomplishing what is trying to be accomplished. I also want to point out - the cap isn't the reason why many other non-profits haven't gotten into the gaming - some of it is a lack of effort in trying to get into it - you can lead these charities to water, but they're going to have to want to put in the time and energy to fish - the gaming isn't an easy slam dunk, there is some effort required in the implementation and then ongoing operations. An example of that time commitment - D2SO started the application process for gaming 12-18 months ago, but they're still not licensed - it can take quite a bit of time from decision to go forward, to actually being licensed.

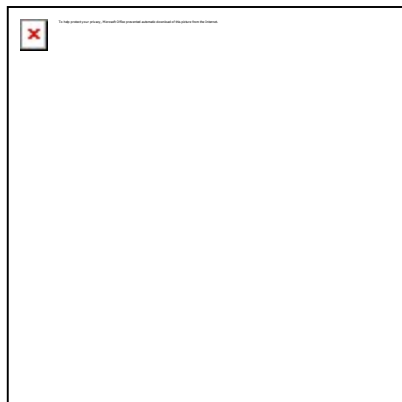
Those are my thoughts. I wanted to get this over before the COW, so it could help with discussion. To my knowledge, none of you own, operate or have a vested interest in an establishment with an alcohol license or in a non-profit - so, I hope you take my perspective into account, and I really hope other organizations have reached out or do reach out. Thanks, all!

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Andrew Krauseneck

Founder/President - Owner/Operator

Albatross Inc. - Albatross Indoor Golf Club



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