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The City of Northfield has decided to heed the CDC's recommendations with regard to the prevention of community spread of Covid-19, and must announce with sadness that Northfield's official Trick-or-Treat celebration is being canceled this year. As such, the City of Northfield will not sponsor or direct any Trick-or-Treating activities, and we are joining the City of Pleasantville who has made a similar decision.

In-person gatherings pose varying levels of risk, and we cannot safely control an event such as Trick-or-Treat, one that is unpredictable in size and scope, and we have no means of ensuring social distancing on every street in Northfield.

Trick-or-Treat also potentially involves visitors traveling from other neighborhoods or communities, and we have already heard from concerned residents about controlling the amount of people on certain streets.

While we understand that many local families may choose to engage in traditional Trick-or-Treat activities, the City will not endorse or participate in such activities. We encourage any family who does choose to engage in activities on October 31, or any day, to follow appropriate CDC guidelines and utilize social distancing protocols.

We know our kids are playing football, baseball, and cheering, and if you have a child engaging in these activities, you are very familiar with the strict rules and procedures that must be followed to minimize possible exposure to Covid-19. But Trick or Treat is different – it is the entirety of Northfield – not a group of a few dozen kids being closely managed by coaches and volunteers.

We also know there will be people who think this is the wrong decision, and that our kids deserve to be able to Trick-or-Treat because we need to give them something normal. But this year has been anything but normal, and when faced with a choice, it only makes sense to err on the side of caution, and to listen the experts who have told us they consider Trick-or-Treat to be a higher-risk activity.

We love our residents, and we love your children, but this year, we can't support a large event that could put any one of them, or you, at levels of risk we can't safely manage.

Turning off your porch lights on Halloween from 6-8pm can assist us in conveying the message.

Mayor Erland Chau
Chief Paul Newman