

**WRITTEN RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
HAMLINE MIDWAY COALITION**

**March 31, 2025 WHEREAS**, the Hamline Midway Coalition (hereinafter “HMC”) is a 317A Minnesota nonprofit corporation exempt from income tax pursuant to 501(c)(3) and, as such, is bound by the regulations set forth in the Internal Revenue Code that explicitly prohibit charitable organizations from engaging in partisan political activities; and

**WHEREAS**, former Board President and current candidate for political office, Cole Hanson, engaged in activities that jeopardized HMC’s tax-exempt status and public trust by:

1. **Modifying Organizational Messaging for Personal Campaign Use:** Alteration of HMC’s website content to remove HMC’s well-established and publicly recognized slogan, followed by the use of said slogan in Mr. Hanson’s campaign materials. This slogan is featured in paid HMC materials. These actions are expressly prohibited under IRS regulations governing 501(c)(3) organizations and were not authorized by HMC.
2. **Using HMC Staff and Imagery for Implicit Endorsement:** Without HMC’s consent, using a photo featuring himself and HMC staff on his campaign website, creating the appearance of an implicit organizational endorsement, such endorsement is expressly prohibited by 501(c)(3) regulations.
3. **Using an HMC Event for Campaigning:** While serving as Board President, engaging in campaign-related activities at an HMC-sponsored event, in violation of IRS rules prohibiting 501(c)(3) organizations from engaging in campaigning; and,

**WHEREAS**, By taking the above actions—each constituting prohibited political campaign involvement—Mr. Hanson created the appearance of organizational support for a partisan candidate and misused organizational resources to directly benefit his candidacy for public office. Such conduct placed HMC at risk of IRS penalties, including the potential revocation of its 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; and

**WHEREAS**, these actions have exposed HMC to potential legal liability, public scrutiny, and reputational harm; and

**WHEREAS**, HMC affirms its commitment to strict adherence to nonprofit law, including IRS regulations and the Johnson Amendment, and to maintaining neutrality in all political campaigns; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that HMC officially disavows the actions taken by Cole Hanson, as outlined above, and affirms that these actions were unauthorized and contrary to HMC’s policies and legal obligations; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that HMC reaffirms its commitment to nonpartisan conduct, explicitly stating that no board member, staff member, or affiliated individual may use HMC resources, branding, or events for any political campaign; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that HMC will implement new organizational safeguards to prevent such behavior in the future, including:

1. *Adopting a New Bylaw Provision* requiring that any board member or staff who announces their candidacy for public office must immediately either: 1.) take a leave of absence for the duration of the campaign, or 2.) resign outright to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure organizational neutrality.
2. *Strengthening the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Expanding Board Education* to provide clearer guidelines and comprehensive training on nonprofit compliance, ensuring board members fully understand their legal obligations and the importance of maintaining HMC's nonpartisan integrity.
3. *Reaffirming HMC's Commitment to Nonpartisanship in Elections*, including its non-involvement in candidate forums for the upcoming special election. HMC will not host, co-host, or sponsor any candidate forums but may promote forums organized by neighborhood partners; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution will be shared with the full board, be publicly available with our board minutes to reaffirm HMC's commitment to compliance and transparency, and be provided to Cole Hanson as a formal notice of HMC's disavowal of his activities as outlined above.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we, the undersigned Board of Directors with voting rights, hereby adopt the above resolution effective this 31st day of March, 2025.

Grace Liu, Board President  
NAME, TITLE

Anna Best, Board Secretary  
NAME, TITLE

Ilya Garelik, Co-Vice President  
NAME, TITLE

Melissa Tallman, Co-Vice President  
NAME, TITLE

Gunnar Aas, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

Kaitlynn Fuller, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

Cameron Fure, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

Dawn Einwalter, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

Ahmed (Meddy) Ali, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE