

I take issue with former Northfield Mayor Milani's letter published in the February 5, 2014 edition of the News Leader. That letter suggests that the Village should, for the sake of "fostering good rapport with our neighbors," agree to Ohio HB 377's proposed re-allocation of \$171,000 in State racino host community funds from Northfield to our more affluent neighbors in Walton Hills and Macedonia. In July of 2013, the Ohio legislature determined that Northfield, the community in which the Rocksino is located, was entitled to all of the host community funds. At the request of Walton Hills, HB 377 was introduced in an effort to divert \$171,000 of the April 2014 payment due to Northfield to Walton Hills and Macedonia. Is that attempt to take money from Northfield in the interest of fostering good rapport between our communities?

My administration and I have taken great efforts to oppose HB 377. \$171,000 is a significant amount of money to Northfield, which traditionally carries over \$400,000 in general funds into the new year. Walton Hills and Macedonia carried over approximately three million dollars and eight million dollars respectively into 2014.

A new fire truck and expansion of the Northfield Village fire station are just one of many needs, along with road and infrastructure replacement projects identified by Mr. Milani, that are outlined in my HB 377 testimony and the recent News Leader article as *possible* uses of the State money to be received in April. Council and I will evaluate and prioritize those needs in formulating this year and next years' budgets.

I am disappointed with Mr. Milani's support for HB 377 and his eagerness to give \$171,000 of Northfield's money to surrounding communities while the Village has so many pressing needs to be addressed.

Jesse J. Nehez, Mayor
Village of Northfield