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**Contact:** Ross Currier, executive director, Northfield Downtown Development Corp., 507-663-0319 *or* Amy Gage, NDDC board member, 507-646-3316

**Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice  
A.M. ‘Sandy’ Keith to address Downtown Forum**  
New executive director of Rochester Downtown Alliance will offer  
insight into the challenges of maintaining a lively downtown

**NORTHFIELD, MINN.** — The Northfield Downtown Development Corp. (NDDC) will host distinguished attorney, politician and former state Supreme Court justice A.M. “Sandy” Keith at its monthly Downtown Forum in September.

A well-respected figure in Minnesota, Keith recently was named executive director of the Rochester Downtown Alliance. He will speak at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the Northfield Arts Guild on Division and Third streets. The public is welcome to attend the presentation, which will include a question-and-answer session. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Formed in February 2005, the Rochester Downtown Alliance (RDA) is a public/private partnership formed after a yearlong study by a city-sponsored task force. The RDA aims to establish a “special service district” (also known as a business improvement district) downtown, the “funding mechanism of choice,” according to RDA documents, for downtown business enhancements.

“The NDDC is honored and excited to have such a distinguished and learned speaker at our monthly forum,” says Ross Currier, executive director of the NDDC. “Although Northfield is a smaller entity than Rochester, our downtown faces many similar challenges as theirs. I am looking forward to learning more from Justice Keith.”

The RDA hopes to strengthen and revitalize downtown by increasing daily visits, property values and building occupancy; providing coordinated management of the 50-block district; improving directional signage downtown; and promoting livability and excellence in urban design.

At the Northfield Downtown Forum, Keith will outline the challenges and opportunities that the Rochester group faces and answer audience questions about how the Rochester model might apply in Northfield.

The Northfield Downtown Development Corp., made up of business owners and managers, civic leaders, and representatives of Carleton and St. Olaf colleges, is a voice for downtown. For more information, see [www.nddc.org](http://www.nddc.org).