

<p>LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA 7:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 LAUDERDALE CITY HALL, 1891 WALNUT STREET</p>

The City Council is meeting as a legislative body to conduct the business of the City according to Robert's Rules of Order and the Standing Rules of Order and Business of the City Council. Unless so ordered by the Mayor, citizen participation is limited to the times indicated and always within the prescribed rules of conduct for public input at meetings.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVALS**

- a. Agenda
- b. Minutes of the March 11, 2025 City Council Meeting
- c. Claims Totaling \$32,658.55

4. **CONSENT**

5. **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS/RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

6. **INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

- a. NineNorth and Cable Commission Update by Jeff Ongstad

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Public hearings are conducted so that the public affected by a proposal may have input into the decision. During hearings all affected residents will be given an opportunity to speak pursuant to the Robert's Rules of Order and the standing rules of order and business of the City Council.

8. **DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM**

- a. Resolution No. 032525A – A Resolution Supporting Legislation Expanding the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (“HRA”) to Include Economic Development Agency (“EDA”) Powers.

9. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

10. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

11. **SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a. February / March Financial Report
- b. Annual Audit Presentation
- c. Annual St. Anthony Police Department Presentation (April 22)

12. **WORK SESSION**

- a. Community Development Updates
- b. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Any member of the public may speak at this time on any item not on the agenda. In consideration for the public attending the meeting, this portion of the meeting will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes. Individuals are requested to limit their comments to three (3) minutes or less. If the majority of the Council determines that additional time on a specific issue is warranted, then discussion on that issue shall be continued at the end of the agenda. Before addressing the City Council, members of the public are asked to step up to the microphone, give their name, address, and state the subject to be discussed. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a whole and not to any member thereof. No person other than members of the Council and the person having the floor shall be permitted to enter any discussion without permission of the presiding officer.

Your participation, as prescribed by the Robert's Rules of Order and the standing rules of order and business of the City Council, is welcomed and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Mar 25, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: March 25, 2025 Lauderdale City Council Webinar

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84843690523?pwd=hkrLRUebQt9p68RYGFbziYXKY3HdBF.1>

Passcode:775117

Join via audio:

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 689 278 1000 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Webinar ID: 848 4369 0523

Passcode: 775117

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kech7DhjPg>

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Lauderdale City Hall
1891 Walnut Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113

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March 11, 2025

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Sharon Kelly, Duane Pulford, Jeff Dains, and Mayor Pro Tem Sayre.

Councilors absent: Mary Gaasch.

Staff present: Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator; and Miles Cline, Deputy City Clerk.

Approvals

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the February 25, 2025, City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the February 25, 2025, City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the claims totaling \$137,638.39. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the Consent Agenda thereby approving the street sweeping agreement with Mike McPhillips, Inc., the tree trimming and removal services agreement with Blue Chip Tree Company, and the refuse hauler licenses.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Bownik stated that the March 25 Council meeting might include the February financial report, and a NineNorth and cable commission update from Jeff Ongstad.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Councilor Pulford stated that he and Administrator Butkowski attended the Lucky Leaf Exposition at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Councilor Kelly shared that she, Councilor Pulford, and Administrator Butkowski attended the Day on the Hill event at the Minnesota State Capitol.

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Lauderdale City Hall
1891 Walnut Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113

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March 11, 2025

B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre opened the floor to those interested in addressing the Council.

There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Pro Tem Sayre closed the floor.

Adjournment

Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk



CITY OF LAUDERDALE
LAUDERDALE CITY HALL
1891 WALNUT STREET
LAUDERDALE, MN 55113
651-792-7650
651-631-2066 FAX

Request for Council Action

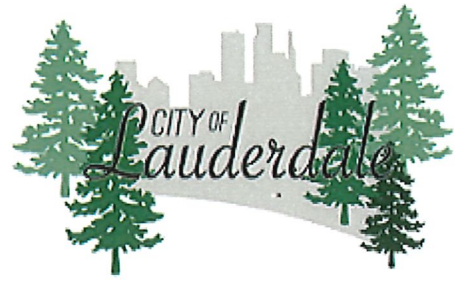
To: Mayor and City Council
From: City Administrator
Meeting Date: March 25, 2025
Subject: List of Claims

The claims totaling \$32,658.55 are provided for City Council review and approval that includes check numbers 29320 to 29343.

Accounts Payable

Checks by Date - Detail by Check Date

User: miles.cline
Printed: 3/21/2025 2:56 PM



Check No	Vendor No Invoice No	Vendor Name Description	Check Date Reference	Check Amount
ACH	43	Public Employees Retirement Association	03/14/2025	
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 PERA Coordinated	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 PER	1,363.56
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 PERA Coordinated	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 PER	1,181.75
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 43:				2,545.31
ACH	44	Minnesota Department of Revenue	03/14/2025	
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 State Income Tax	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Stat	861.45
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 44:				861.45
ACH	45	ICMA Retirement Corporation	03/14/2025	
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Deferred Comp	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Defi	1,782.87
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Deferred Comp	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Defi	1,087.30
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 45:				2,870.17
ACH	46	Internal Revenue Service	03/14/2025	
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Medicare Employee Pc	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Mec	293.49
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 FICA Employee Portio	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 FIC.	1,254.94
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Medicare Employer Po	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Mec	293.49
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Federal Income Tax	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Fed	2,227.01
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 FICA Employer Portio	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 FIC.	1,254.94
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 46:				5,323.87
ACH	47	Public Employees Insurance Program	03/14/2025	
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Health Insurance	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Hea	1,510.92
		PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Dental	PR Batch 50600.03.2025 Den	85.20
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 47:				1,596.12
Total for 3/14/2025:				13,196.92
ACH	372 032025	Duane Pulford DP Travel Expenses - Lucky Leaf Exposition	03/25/2025	
Total for this ACH Check for Vendor 372:				24.40
29320	56 032025	James Bownik 1Q2025 Mileage Reimbursement	03/25/2025	
Total for Check Number 29320:				4.48
29321	57 032025	Heather Butkowski 1Q25 Mileage Reimbursement	03/25/2025	
Total for Check Number 29321:				151.90
29322	2	City of St Paul	03/25/2025	

Check No	Vendor No Invoice No	Vendor Name Description	Check Date Reference	Check Amount
	IN61921	Labor & Equipment for Light Repairs		473.00
			Total for Check Number 29322:	473.00
29323	133 032025	Miles Cline 1Q25 Mileage Reimbursement	03/25/2025	52.64
			Total for Check Number 29323:	52.64
29324	192 235347859	Comcast Holdings Corporation March Internet	03/25/2025	413.00
			Total for Check Number 29324:	413.00
29325	25 EMCOM-012318 EMCOM-012333 EMCOM-012350	County of Ramsey February Fleet Support February 911 Dispatch Services February CAD Services	03/25/2025	6.24 553.67 83.17
			Total for Check Number 29325:	643.08
29326	59 745767125	Finance and Commerce Inc Advertise 2025 Sanitary Sewer Structure Repairs	03/25/2025	233.20
			Total for Check Number 29326:	233.20
29327	443 032025	David Greenlund Fence Repair & Tree Trimming - 1744 Pleasant St	03/25/2025	4,200.00
			Total for Check Number 29327:	4,200.00
29328	134 00153	Katrina Joseph February Legal Services	03/25/2025	925.00
			Total for Check Number 29328:	925.00
29329	31 186760	Kennedy & Graven Chartered February Legal Services	03/25/2025	1,896.00
			Total for Check Number 29329:	1,896.00
29330	185 032025 032025 032025	Lauderdale Certified Auto Repair Inc February Fuel February Fuel February Fuel	03/25/2025	51.72 11.08 11.08
			Total for Check Number 29330:	73.88
29331	30 427527	League of Minnesota Cities MG & JD - 2025 LMC Annual Conference	03/25/2025	550.00
			Total for Check Number 29331:	550.00
29332	23 INV2742187	Metro Sales Inc 1Q25 Copy Charges	03/25/2025	134.62
			Total for Check Number 29332:	134.62
29333	445 032025	MN Association of Small Cities MN Small Cities Membership Dues - July 2025	03/25/2025	1,310.50
			Total for Check Number 29333:	1,310.50

Check No	Vendor No Invoice No	Vendor Name Description	Check Date Reference	Check Amount
29334	12	NineNorth	03/25/2025	
	2025-025	February Virtual Meeting Production		380.00
	2025-025	February Webstreaming & Archiving		192.00
	2025-025	February Virtual Meeting Charge		105.00
Total for Check Number 29334:				677.00
29335	10	On Site Sanitation Inc	03/25/2025	
	0001861799	03/15/2025 - 04/11/2025 Park Portable Restroom		101.00
Total for Check Number 29335:				101.00
29336	388	PeopleService Inc	03/25/2025	
	PS-INV106924	April Wastewater		660.00
Total for Check Number 29336:				660.00
29337	5	Premium Waters Inc	03/25/2025	
	619861-02-25	February Water Service		26.56
Total for Check Number 29337:				26.56
29338	26	Stantec Consulting Services Inc	03/25/2025	
	2367760	Manhole Repair Project		2,478.50
	2367760	Eustis Street Project		816.00
	2367760	MS4 permit and WCA Reporting		811.00
Total for Check Number 29338:				4,105.50
29339	108	Suburban Rate Authority	03/25/2025	
	025-1	2025 Membership Assessment		498.00
Total for Check Number 29339:				498.00
29340	3	US National Equipment Finance Inc	03/25/2025	
	551292014	April Copier Lease		155.00
Total for Check Number 29340:				155.00
29341	90	Verizon Wireless	03/25/2025	
	6107382253	February Cell Phone		41.04
	6107382253	February Cell Phone		41.05
	6107382253	February Cell Phone		82.09
Total for Check Number 29341:				164.18
29342	425	Vestis	03/25/2025	
	2500623777	March Uniforms		22.77
	2500623777	March Uniforms		22.76
	2500629684	March Uniforms		22.77
	2500629684	March Uniforms		22.76
Total for Check Number 29342:				91.06
29343	74	Xcel Energy	03/25/2025	
	917027853	February Street Lighting		538.08
	917212210	Larpenteur Bridge Lights		69.40
	917297080	1917 Walnut Street		189.65
	917297080	1885 Fulham Street		160.38
	917297080	1917 Walnut Street		32.77
	917297080	1885 Fulham Street		106.92
	917318558	2430 Larpenteur Avenue W		10.43

Check No	Vendor No Invoice No	Vendor Name Description	Check Date Reference	Check Amount
	917439867	1891 Walnut Street		254.22
	917439867	1891 Walnut Street		462.75
	917687917	Larpenteur Avenue		73.03
Total for Check Number 29343:				1,897.63
Total for 3/25/2025:				19,461.63
Report Total (30 checks):				32,658.55

LAUDERDALE COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date

March 25, 2025

Agenda Item

NineNorth

Action Requested

Consent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE AND PAST COUNCIL ACTION:

Jeff Ongstad, the Executive Director for NineNorth, will be at the city council meeting. He will provide an update on both the North Suburban Communications Commission and the North Suburban Access Corporation as the City is a member of each joint powers agreement. He provided the following facts sheet for your review in advance of the meeting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
















Fact Sheet




Lauderdale City Council Meeting

3/12/2025

General Information

-  Lauderdale is part of a 9 City Joint Powers Agreement in the northern suburbs.
-  The 9 cities include Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville, and St. Anthony.
-  This JPA operates the North Suburban Communications Commission and the North Suburban Access Corporation.
-  The NSCC handles such matters as Cable Franchise Renewal, Cable Complaints, and Cable Franchise Oversight.
-  The NSCC is funded by a portion of each city's Cable Franchise Fees.
-  The NSAC handles the production of programs, meetings, videos, and distribution of that content.
-  The NSAC is funded by Cable PEG fees as well as earned income.
-  The NSAC, formally known as CTV, now does business as NineNorth.
-  Both are governed by the same board with an appointed member from each city.
-  Your member is Councilman Duane Pulford.
-  Both also have the same Executive Director, Jeff Ongstad.
-  The NineNorth Studios are located in Roseville at 2670 Arthur Street.
-  NineNorth's website is www.ninenorth.org.

NineNorth and Little Canada

-  NineNorth operates 3 HD channels and 4 SD channels in Lauderdale on Comcast Cable.
-  They are NineNorth (HD 859, SD 15), NineNorth Sports (HD 799, SD 14), NineNorth Government Lauderdale (HD 798, SD 16), and NineNorth Access (SD 19).
-  NineNorth airs over a thousand hours of local programming per year.

- 💧 Of that number, 57 are directly focused on Lauderdale.
- 💧 NineNorth provides production for all Lauderdale City Meetings. This totaled 22 meetings in 2024 alone.
- 💧 We also cover major Lauderdale events such as the Lauderdale Day In The Park, and numerous other events.
- 💧 We produce Candidate Forums for Mayor and Council races, along with applicable State House and Senate races.
- 💧 We offer Candidate Speak Outs, where candidates can let their views be known.
- 💧 We also produce “Spotlight” stories on people, places, history, and events in our 9 cities including 8 stories focusing on Lauderdale in the last year.
- 💧 Overall, we have had a 500% increase in our production of “Spotlight” stories in the last year.
- 💧 NineNorth also does facility assessments for Lauderdale facilities, offering suggestions on equipment upgrades and facility efficiency.

💧 2025 and Beyond

- 💧 As part of NineNorth’s Objectives and Goals for 2025, we are anticipating another 50% increase in our coverage of community and civic events for Lauderdale and the other member cities.
- 💧 In addition to expanding our public digital newsletter, we are adding a “City Staff/Officials” newsletter to better inform City Staff and Officials on what we’re doing and how we can help.
- 💧 We’re also expanding our presence at community events over the spring and summer, by not only covering the events, but participating in the event with a booth or table.
- 💧 We’ve recently updated our studios to 4K with a new production switcher and cameras. This will give us increased capabilities to serve our member cities better.
- 💧 We are actively using and testing AI tools to expand our capabilities, and to speed up our production workflow to produce even more content.
- 💧 If you’d like a tour of our facility or you have any questions, call me at 651-792-7512 or e-mail me at jongstad@ninenorth.org.

LAUDERDALE COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date

March 25, 2025

Agenda Item

Ramsey County EDA

Action Requested

Consent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session	<input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE AND PAST COUNCIL ACTION:

The Ramsey County Board is asking cities in the County to support their legislative effort to get EDA powers. The packet includes a memo from one of the County's attorneys as well as an FAQ on the issue. When this first came out it was a touchy issue between Ramsey County and the cities in the county. The points of conflict have been resolved. This is in part because the County will not implement a county-wide EDA levy. They simply want to allow some of the money from the new HRA levy to be used for economic development, especially in the area of small business assistance. The Council can support this effort by adopting the following resolution.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 032525A – A Resolution Supporting Legislation Expanding the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (“HRA”) to Include Economic Development Agency (“EDA”) Powers.

RESOLUTION NO. 032525A

**CITY OF LAUDERDALE
COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION EXPANDING THE RAMSEY COUNTY
HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (“HRA”) TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (“EDA”) POWERS**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Ramsey County (“County”) and the Lauderdale City Council (“City”) consider small businesses to be the backbone of stability and growth for their respective local government and municipality; and

WHEREAS, the County and the City also consider continued investment in small businesses as critical for sustaining stability and growth in their respective local government and municipality; and

WHEREAS, the County has secured funding that could be dedicated for investment in a variety of programs to support small businesses located in the City, but cannot currently access or distribute said funds due to the lack of an effective channel through its HRA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to proposed legislation through the State of Minnesota the County seeks to gain access to said funding and allow for the distribution of funds to small businesses located in the City; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation creates an EDA and grants to the HRA the powers of the EDA (excepting the EDA’s power to tax); and

WHEREAS, the City supports the County in pursuing legislation to secure channels to fund small businesses located within the City and believes such funding will be beneficial to the City and essential for stability and growth; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to avail itself to such funding should it become available and expresses its commitment to collaborate in the process necessary for passing said legislation and its corresponding implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City supports the County in its legislative endeavor and endorses proposed legislation that creates a Ramsey County EDA and expands the powers of the Ramsey County HRA to include Ramsey County EDA powers (excluding the EDA’s power to tax).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City commits to the collaboration and the processes necessary for the passing and implementation of said legislation.

ADOPTED, by the City Council of Lauderdale this 25th day of March, 2025.

Mary Gaasch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Butkowski, City Administrator

MEMORANDUM

To: City Leadership

From: Scott Schwahn, Ramsey County Senior Assistant Attorney

Subject: Comments/Summary on Proposed Redlined Bill (Proposed Ramsey County EDA)

This memo is to address two of the main concerns certain cities had regarding the above-referenced proposed bill, and also to indicate specifically how those concerns were addressed pursuant to the attached redlined proposed bill.

At prior meetings, and in past correspondence with the County, the cities generally seemed to approve in principle the idea of Ramsey County creating an EDA. Without going into the details here, after much discussion there appeared to be an understanding that an EDA creation frees up funds Ramsey County could otherwise not access (particularly for small businesses), and that these funds would benefit the cities in a direct and proximate way.

However, they had concerns about unintended consequences. Those essentially boiled down to the following: 1.) Would the act of Ramsey County establishing an EDA give them new powers to tax under MN Statute 469, and if so, how could they be sure the County would not later certify an EDA levy to the County Auditor?, and 2.) Preserving opt out and withdrawal options.

The County agreed these were legitimate concerns, and revised the proposed bill accordingly. You will see this as follows:

1.) The redlined additions in the first paragraph indicate the intention of the County is NOT to create a new tax, and that it is limited from doing so, and the cities will preserve options and the ability to withdraw from participation.

2.) At Item 1.12 you will see "except as to Sections 469.101 subd. 19, 469.102, and 469.107" added. Those are statutory references (of the full extent) of taxing powers normally granted to an EDA. We removed all such powers. Therefore, this EDA would have not any taxing powers.

3.) At item 1.19 you will see "Except as to 469.1082 subd. 5" added. To further limit what the County can do under the new EDA, we stated any 469.1082 provisions normally granted would also not apply. You can review what 469.1082 entails, but in any event, whatever powers we would have under this statute, have also been removed. With one exception: 469.1082 subd. 5 refers to the cities ability to opt out or withdraw. We did not want to imply this also removed such options, and therefore made this exception to remove any doubt about their preserving option and/or withdrawal rights.

I am hoping this clarifies what the redlined additions are intended to do. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

--VERSION 1/23/2025--

Statutory Change Expanding Use of Ramsey County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)

Small businesses are the backbone of Ramsey County. It's critical to our region that we continue to invest in our business community in the wake of the pandemic. Ramsey County seeks to amend the HRA statutory language to expand authority to better support diversifying industries, communities, and emerging entrepreneurs as best as possible.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Ramsey County not just revising its Housing and Redevelopment Authority to include business programming as an allowable use? Why is establishment of an economic development authority included in this legislation?

A: Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority is established under state statute. The state statute is narrowly worded to the support and funding of affordable housing and redevelopment projects and programs. Small business programming is defined as allowable uses with economic development authorities. Ramsey County does not currently have an economic development authority. Based on legal guidance, the proposed legislation expands the powers of the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority through the establishment of an economic development authority.

Will this legislative change result in a new property tax to Ramsey County property owners?

A: No. This legislative change has no change on property taxes. This legislative change simply expands the list of eligible activities in which Ramsey County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy is used. The text change would additionally add programming for entrepreneurs and small businesses as an eligible use for the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy.

What is the county seeking from Ramsey County cities? If the legislation is successful, what is required from Ramsey County cities?

A: The County does not require approval from Ramsey County cities for this proposed legislation. The County does however seek support from our cities for this legislation.

If the legislation is successful, cities within the existing Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority area of operation will have the choice whether to:

- **Opt-in:** A city that chooses to opt-in will receive the greatest flexibility of eligible programming. In addition to the current portfolio of affordable housing and redevelopment programming, business programming will be provided. City Councils will be asked to pass resolutions 'opting-in' by June 2025. With the first year of HRA levy funded business programming occurring in 2026.
- **Opt-out:** A city that chooses to opt-out will continue to receive the current portfolio of affordable housing and redevelopment programming.

The City of North Saint Paul is not to be a part of the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Area of Operation. There is no change to North Saint Paul as a result of this legislation.

Ramsey County Housing & Redevelopment Authority

What is the current levy of the Ramsey County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA)?

A: The 2024 HRA Levy is \$12,595,222. HRA Levy spending maintains a directed parity of 50% of the levy spent within suburban Ramsey County and 50% within the city of Saint Paul.

How is the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy currently used?

A: The Ramsey County HRA levy is in its third year of operation. Over the last two years, the general breakdown of HRA levy usage was (Avg. of 2022 & 2023):

Housing Programing	Redevelopment Programs	Administration
73%	17%	10%

Current suite of HRA levy programming

Housing Programs	Redevelopment Programs
Affordable Housing infrastructure Investments	Critical Corridors – Development + Infrastructure;
FirstHome Down payment assistance	Critical Corridors Suburban Commercial Corridor Initiative <i>*Suburbs only*</i>
Emerging & Diverse Developers Program	Critical Corridors Planning
	Site Assessment Grants

► HRA 2024 Annual Report – Highlights (3rd year of operation)

Final Report is currently in production with a final version published in Q1 2025. General highlights to include:

- Affordable Housing Investments. \$6.5M of HRA levy obligated to affordable housing projects in 2024.
- Emerging & Diverse Developers (EDD). Over 30 developers received technical assistance in 2024. County invested \$2.4 million (HRA Levy only) into projects led by EDD.
- FirstHome Down Payment Assistance. 46 closings in 2024.
- Critical Corridors. Assisted 9 qualifying applicants/projects with \$1.76 million in Housing & Redevelopment Authority levy funding for place-based investments in three core areas: pre-development planning, commercial corridor initiatives (suburban only) and development and infrastructure
- Site Assessment Grants. Supported 16 projects with site investigation in 2024.

► HRA 2023 Annual Report – Highlights (2nd year of operation)

- Affordable Housing Investments. \$6.15M of HRA levy obligated to affordable housing projects in 2023. Across all funding streams, County invested in the construction of 1,365 new and 767 preserved rental housing units in 2023. Of the total, 988 were classified as deeply affordable for residents earning at or below 30% Area Median Income.
- FirstHome Down Payment Assistance. Of the 27 closings, 25 were first-generation homebuyers.
- Emerging & Diverse Developers (EDD). EDD is a two-part program initiated in second half of 2023.
 - Part A provides technical assistance and cohort group learning to strengthen the pipeline of local emerging and diverse developers in real estate. 48 developers received technical assistance in 2023.

- Part B is a solicitation for projects led by EDD. County invested \$3.1 million (across all funding) into projects led by EDD.
 - Critical Corridors. Assisted 10 qualifying applicants/projects with \$2.1 million in Housing & Redevelopment Authority levy funding for place-based investments in three core areas: pre-development planning, commercial corridor initiatives (suburban only) and development and infrastructure
 - Site Assessment Grants. Program initiated in late 2023. Supported one project in 2023.
- **HRA 2022 Annual Report – Highlights** (*1st year of operation*)
- Affordable Housing Investments. \$7.2M of HRA levy obligated to affordable housing projects in 2022. Across all funding streams, Ramsey County leveraged multiple funding sources in 2022 to bring dozens of affordable housing projects closer to realization and invested in the construction of 1,128 new rental housing units and preserved 1,029. Of the total, 571 are classified as deeply affordable for residents earning at or below 30% Area Median Income.
 - FirstHome Down Payment Assistance. In Fall 2022, County relaunched its down payment assistance program to better align with market realities and offer first-time and first-generation homebuyers with down payment assistance. \$187,500 in down payment assistance loans disbursed in 2022.
 - Critical Corridors. Established in the Fall 2022, 14 grants in its first round of solicitations, totaling roughly \$2.3 million in three core areas: pre-development planning, development and infrastructure, and commercial corridor initiatives.

Will this change result in Ramsey County shifting its focus from supporting the preservation and expansion of deeply affordable housing?

A: No. Ramsey County remains focused on the improving affordable housing infrastructure throughout the county. The MN Legislature made unprecedented investments in housing and housing infrastructure as part of the 2023 Legislative session. The Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) or housing sales tax is estimated to bring resources comparable to that of the HRA levy. This additional funding for affordable housing allows for a slight adjustment of funding priorities of the HRA levy without deviating from the County's primary focus on expanding and improving affordable housing infrastructure.

Who decides on funding priorities on HRA Levy?

A: Ramsey County HRA Board is responsible for establishing funding priorities and make final decisions regarding spending of HRA levy. While the County HRA outlines its priorities, it relies on city partners as well as community organizations and developers to ready important projects. Prior to the county's funding in a project, projects are required obtain a municipal resolution in support in accordance with state statute.

EDA and business programming

What type of business activities does the County intend to do with this legislative change?

A: The County is responding to community requests for enhanced business programming. The small business support (EDA eligible activities) realized by this legislative flexibility would be a strong reelection of those local requests and would initially start at \$1.5 - \$2 million of our yearly HRA levy to ensure the bulk of resources are remain available and prioritized for housing programs and projects. Funding will continue to align with HRA levy spending directives where 50% of HRA levy spending occurs in suburban Ramsey County and 50% with the City of Saint Paul. Areas of need identified to strengthen the small business ecosystem are informed by the County's involvement and engagement with cities, business support organizations and small businesses that include:

- Capacity building of small business support organizations to meet current and future needs

- ▶ More technical assistance/advisory services to better serve targeted geographies, communities and/or industries
- ▶ Additional flexible capital to enable greater business retention, expansion and attraction

Did the County attempt to form an EDA previously?

A: During the 2024 Legislative Session, Ramsey County introduced proposed legislation amending HRA statutory language and establishing an EDA to allow for business programming to be an eligible use of Ramsey County HRA levy funding. HF 3784 (Lee) / SF 4655 (Hawj) was later amended based on feedback from cities. A redlined version, including a memo from the County Attorney's office describing the changes is available. The current draft version for the 2025 Legislative session of the bill reflects this city feedback in 2024.

In 2016, the County did submit legislation that would have created a Ramsey County EDA. The legislation was pulled by the County following community concerns around the creation of a new taxing authority. The county's current legislation would not create a new taxing authority as it merely allows for additional eligible uses (i.e. business programming) of the County's existing Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Does Ramsey County provide business programming? If so, what programs? How much does it spend? And how does it pay for business programs?

A: Ramsey County provides limited business programming. The County funds the programming through the County's general property tax levy. Current business programming totals \$345,000.

- ▶ Entrepreneur support: Open to Business – Provides no cost direct technical assistance and other forms of support to small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs. This program was expanded countywide in 2019 in response to direct city requests for this program.
- ▶ Small Business Growth: Ramsey County has two cohort-based leadership programs geared for established businesses. Both programs are a partnership with Hennepin County.
 - CEO Next – Group learning leadership program for CEOs/founders of second stage businesses that are growth-minded (\$1M-50M in revenues, 10-99 employees, etc.)
 - CEO Now – Group learning leadership program for CEOs/founders of first stage businesses that are growth-minded (\$250K-2M in revenues, more than one employee, operating for two years, etc.) Newly established in 2024.
- ▶ Marketing & attraction programming: RamseyCountyMeansBusiness.com An online portal providing workforce and economic development resources throughout the county to current and prospective businesses and investors. This online portal went live in 2019 and was refocused during the pandemic as a central repository for covid business relief resources. A redesign of the portal is underway and will be live in early 2025.

How do other metro counties support business programming and how did they obtain authority to provide economic development activities?

A: Hennepin County received special legislation (MN Statute 383B.79) - A *multijurisdictional reinvestment program* is authorized involving Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and one or more of the following political subdivisions: the cities of Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, and other interested statutory or home rule charter cities in Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park Board, the Three Rivers Park District, and any watershed district entirely or partially located in Hennepin County. The multijurisdictional program may include plans for housing rehabilitation and removals, industrial polluted land cleanup, water ponding, environmental cleanup, community corridor connections, corridor planning, creation of green space, acquisition of property, development and

redevelopment of parks and open space, water quality and lakeshore improvement, development and redevelopment of housing and commercial projects, economic development, and job creation.

- ▶ Hennepin County utilizes Housing and Redevelopment Authority funding for a variety of economic development programs including their CEO Next and Elevate Business platform. Due to the broader nature of this statute, this has limited applicability to Ramsey County.

Dakota County has a Community Development Agency. Under MN Statute 383D.41, subdivision 7, *After December 31, 1999, the Dakota County Housing and Redevelopment Authority shall be known as the Dakota County Community Development Agency. In addition to the other powers granted in this section, the Dakota County Community Development Agency shall have the powers of an economic development authority.*

- ▶ A core focus of local Community Development Agencies (CDAs) is the ability to own and operate affordable housing. Ramsey County has expressed no interest in owning and operating affordable housing, so this the CDA statute has limited applicability to Ramsey County.

Washington County has a Community Development Agency. In 2016, Washington County successfully sought special legislation to amend their Housing & Redevelopment Authority and created a Community Development Agency. Under MN Statute 383D.41, section 2, subdivision 2a, *Request to handle economic development, housing, or redevelopment duties. The governing body of a statutory or home rule charter city or township with an existing municipal economic development authority may request the Washington County Community Development Agency to handle the economic development, housing, or redevelopment duties of the authority and, in such an event, the Washington County Community Development Agency shall act and have exclusive jurisdiction for economic development, housing, or redevelopment duties in the statutory or home rule charter city or township pursuant to the provisions of the Economic Development Authorities Act, Minnesota Statutes, sections 469.090 to 469.1081.*

- ▶ A core focus of local Community Development Agencies (CDAs) is the ability to own and operate affordable housing. Ramsey County has expressed no interest in owning and operating affordable housing, so this the CDA statute has limited applicability to Ramsey County.

Scott County and Carver County each have a Community Development Agency. CDA's provide the most diverse array of eligible programing for housing, redevelopment and economic development uses.

Other questions:

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