

City Council Item

August 10, 2026



Item	State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement Hotel Inspection	
File No.		Item No: D.12
Agenda Section	<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>	
Prepared By	Andrew Heger, Fire Chief	
Reviewed By		

<u>SUGGESTED ACTION</u>	
"The Chanhassen City Council approves the Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota for hotel inspections."	
Motion Type	Simple Majority Vote of members present
Strategic Priority	Operational Excellence

SUMMARY

The City Council will consider entering into an agreement with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal to provide fire inspection services for the community. This action is intended to ensure that all required fire inspections are conducted in accordance with applicable state and local regulations, utilizing certified personnel as defined by the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education. The proposed agreement outlines the responsibilities of both parties, including the scope of services, compliance requirements, and procedures for coordination and recordkeeping. By formalizing this partnership, the city aims to maintain high standards of fire safety and code enforcement while leveraging the expertise and resources of the State Fire Marshal's office. Approval of this agreement will support the city's ongoing commitment to public safety and regulatory compliance.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chanhassen's approach to fire inspection services is shaped by a combination of statutory authority, local code adoption, and evolving operational needs. Under Minnesota law, municipalities are empowered to provide for fire prevention and protection, including the authority to adopt and enforce fire codes and to enter into agreements with other governmental entities for the provision of such services. The city has formally adopted the Minnesota State Fire Code, along with specific appendices, as its local fire code, ensuring that fire prevention and inspection activities are aligned with the most current state standards.

Historically, the city has maintained a dedicated Fire Marshal's division responsible for a range of fire inspection activities, including code compliance inspections, annual inspections of licensed facilities, plan reviews, and fire investigations. The division is staffed by certified personnel and operates under the oversight of the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, with support from the State Fire Marshal's Office as needed. Over time, the city has adapted its staffing and operational models to address changes in community risk, regulatory requirements, and resource availability, including the expansion of full-time inspection staff and the integration of community risk reduction initiatives.

Legal and regulatory frameworks play a central role in defining the scope and execution of fire inspection services. The city's fire code mandates compliance with both local and state fire safety standards, and provides mechanisms for appeals and enforcement actions. Additionally, the city's authority to enter into intergovernmental agreements for fire inspection services is established under Minnesota Statutes, section 471.59, which governs joint exercise of powers by governmental units. These frameworks ensure that any agreement for fire inspection services, such as the proposed partnership with the Minnesota State Fire Marshal, operates within a clear legal context and supports the city's objectives for public safety and regulatory compliance.

DISCUSSION

BUDGET

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Chanhassen City Council approve enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota for hotel inspections.

ATTACHMENTS

[Joint Powers Agreement Hotel Inspection](#)