

Memorandum

TO: City Council

FROM: Tom Simonson , Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director

DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Resolution exercising the city's authority to opt-in to the Ramsey County Economic Development Agency

ITEM NUMBER: 8.k

SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Resolution 26-22, exercising the city's authority to opt-in to, and support, the Ramsey County Economic Development Agency.

INTRODUCTION

Last year, Ramsey County received legislative approval to expand their housing and redevelopment authority (HRA) for the purpose of supporting economic development authority (EDA) related programs. The county board recently took action to formally establish an EDA so they can begin the process of implementing new business programs. In order for communities to enable their businesses to access these new programs, cities must "opt in" as a participant in the County EDA. A resolution is presented for city council consideration that states the City of Shoreview's support of this initiative and and officially "opt in" to the County EDA program.

DISCUSSION

On December 2, 2025, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners took an initial step to formally create the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority (EDA). This was a requirement prior to the beginning of this year's legislative session, but it is only the first of a number of steps required to allow enhanced business programming to be funded through the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy (HRA). While the legislation allowed for the creation of the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority (EDA), it outlined two conditions:

1. The EDA will have no taxing authority. This County EDA will only receive and spend funding from the existing Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy. Expansion of the HRA to include EDA powers, as described by state statute, allows the county to utilize a portion of HRA levy funding for purposes of small business support and enhanced business programming.
2. Each city in the county is required to 'opt in' to this enhanced business programming. The 'opt-in' process requires a city by resolution to state their intention to participate in the program by June 1, 2026. Once this deadline passes for cities to elect to 'opt in', the county would then establish the EDA Area of Operation on or by June 15, 2026.

Enhanced business programming is expected to begin as if January 1, 2027. Ramsey County has stated their tentative plan is to allocate \$1.5 - \$2 million yearly from the existing HRA levy directed towards new business programming.

In February of last year, the Shoreview city council and EDA board heard a presentation from Ramsey County officials outlining their pursuit of legislation to expand business program offerings by having the law changed to all use of their HRA levy for such purposes. The response from the EDA and council members who were present when the county introduced this legislative request was generally very positive. Subsequently, on April 7, 2025, the city council adopted a formal resolution of support in favor of the county's proposed legislation.

Included with this memorandum are the following attachments:

- Resolution 26-22, which if adopted, would exercise the city's authority to opt-in to, and support, the Ramsey County Economic Development Agency.
- A memo from Ramsey County outlining in greater detail the next steps in the process to implement and create new business programming.
- A summary of frequently asked questions prepared by Ramsey County.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no additional tax levy through the County HRA being proposed (the county already sets their HRA levy at the maximum allowed), and there is no impact on Shoreview's economic development and business programs. Staff believes by opting into the program being implemented by Ramsey County through their broader HRA authority to assist and support business and economic development would benefit our businesses by allowing them access to potential additional resources.

Staff is recommending the city council adopt Resolution 26-22, exercising the city's authority to opt-in to, and support, the Ramsey County Economic Development Agency.

ATTACHMENTS

[Resolution 26-22, Shoreview Opt-In to Ramsey County Economic Development Agency](#)
[Ramsey County EDA Implementation Next Steps MEMO](#)
[RC EDA - FAQ v2025-03-14](#)