

Memorandum

TO: City Council

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

DATE: April 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolution of Support for Ramsey County Proposed Legislation to Expand HRA Authority for EDA Activities

ITEM NUMBER: 8.m

SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

To adopt Resolution No. 25-30, supporting the proposed legislation by Ramsey County to expand their HRA authority for EDA related activities.

INTRODUCTION

Ramsey County is seeking City of Shoreview support of proposed legislation to expand their housing and redevelopment authority ("HRA") for certain economic development authority ("EDA") related activities. A resolution of support has been drafted and is presented for city council adoption.

DISCUSSION

The bill being presented this legislative session would allow the county to use its HRA levy powers for EDA activities for business assistance, where cities can choose to opt-in. Attached to this memorandum are several documents provided by the county that have been updated from last year based on feedback received from cities, including:

- The draft bill (House File No. 2349) at the Legislature that amends and expands the Ramsey County HRA powers for EDA activities
- A FAQ based on the feedback the county heard from cities and other partners in 2024
- Slide deck of the presentation made to the joint meeting of the Shoreview EDA and city council on February 3, 2025

EDA/Council Discussion

At a meeting on February 3, 2025, the EDA and council members heard a presentation from Ramsey County officials on the proposed legislation. The meeting included an opportunity for questions and there were several takeaways from the discussion, including:

- The county is seeking this broadening of EDA powers through the legislation to provide business support and economic growth programming that is far responsive small business needs.

- With new funding streams of LAHA funds and affordability funding from the State, if approved by the Legislature, the county would have the ability to redirect HRA levy funds towards small business economic development assistance.
- The legislative request amends HRA statutory language to expand authority to better support diversifying industries, communities and emerging entrepreneurs.
- There is no impact to the formula associated with HRA levy collection - the County already levies at the maximum allowed by the State. There is no new levy associated with the proposed legislation.
- Cities will have the choice to opt-in to the spending on EDA eligible activities. If a city does not opt-in, then existing HRA eligible activities will remain available.
- The expanded powers granted to the county under the proposed bill does not impact, restrict, or diminish the City of Shoreview or local EDA/HRA authority.
- If legislation is approved, it would provide local businesses with the opportunity to access county business and economic development programs and resources.

The consensus of the EDA and council members in attendance at the meeting was that the proposed legislation would be a positive for the county and the city for supporting small business and economic development. It was agreed that the city would provide the county a resolution of support at the appropriate time.

At the request of Ramsey County, the mayor provided a letter of support from Shoreview in advance of this supporting resolution, as the county was testifying on the bill at a committee hearing (see attached).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff believes that this legislation, if enacted, giving Ramsey County broader authority as an HRA to assist and support business and economic development would provide Shoreview potential additional resources for our business community to access. As such, it is recommended that the city council adopt Resolution No. 25-30, supporting the proposed legislation to expand the Ramsey County housing and redevelopment authority ("HRA") for certain economic development authority ("EDA") related activities.

ATTACHMENTS

[Resolution 25-30, Shoreview Support of Ramsey County Legislation for Expanded EDA Powers](#)

[House File No. 2349 - expanding Ramsey County HRA powers for EDA activities](#)

[Shoreview Letter of Support for Ramsey County Legislation to Expand HRA Powers - March 26, 2025](#)

[Ramsey County - Shoreview presentation Feb 3 2025](#)

[Ramsey County EDA - FAQ](#)