

# Memorandum

**TO:** Economic Development Authority

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

**DATE:** February 3, 2025

**SUBJECT:** City Support for Ramsey County Proposed Legislation to Expand HRA Authority for EDA Activities

**ITEM NUMBER:** 5.a

**SECTION:** GENERAL BUSINESS

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## **REQUESTED MOTION**

To support the proposed legislation by Ramsey County to expand their HRA authority for EDA related activities.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Officials from Ramsey County will be attending the EDA meeting to provide an update on their HRA program and proposed legislation to expand their HRA authority for EDA related activities. The EDA heard a presentation from the county last year on this potential action, and they wish to update cities on the proposal and are seeking support.

## **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 the county has updated from last year based on feedback based on feedback from cities, including:

- The draft bill at the Legislature that amends and expands the Ramsey County HRA powers for EDA activities
- A memo to you from assistant county attorney on the proposed legislation, which is optional for cities to participate
- A FAQ based on the feedback the county heard from cities and other partners in 2024

Josh Olson, Interim Director of Community & Economic Development will be at January 6 meeting of the EDA to present and discuss.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The response from the EDA board members who were present when the county introduced this legislative request last year was generally positive. 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.

Staff is recommending the EDA board adopt a motion of support and forward a recommendation to the city council as a whole to submit a resolution or letter of support to Ramsey County for the proposed legislative action.

**ATTACHMENTS**

[EDA.HRA - Legislation Draft](#)

[Ramsey County MEMORANDUM to City Leadership](#)

[RC EDA - FAQ](#)