



March 27, 2025

Senator Tou Xiong  
Chair, Senate State and Local Government Committee

**Subject: Request for Support in Expanding Ramsey County HRA to Include Economic Development Authority Functions – HF 2349 (Lee) / SF 2521 (Hawj)**

Dear Chair Xiong:

I am writing to inform you that the City of Roseville, as part of its adopted Legislative Priorities, supports Ramsey County's effort to expand the statutory authority of the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to include economic development activities through the establishment of an Economic Development Authority (EDA) as proposed in HF 2349/SF 2521.

The City of Roseville supports fostering a thriving business environment, helping emerging entrepreneurs, and diversifying industries both in Roseville and across our communities in Ramsey County. The proposed legislative change would allow for small business programming to be included as an eligible use of the existing HRA levy, without creating a new taxing authority. It is important to note that Roseville's support of Ramsey County's request is based on the fact that no new taxing authority will be created with this legislation.

The expansion to an EDA would enable the County to better support local businesses through enhanced technical assistance, capacity building for business support organizations, and access to additional flexible capital.

**We understand the importance of collaboration in achieving these goals and respectfully request your support for HF 2349/SF 2521 to provide for another economic development tool to assist businesses in Ramsey County.**

Sincerely,  
CITY OF ROSEVILLE

Daniel Roe  
Mayor



4600 VICTORIA STREET NORTH  
SHOREVIEW, MINNESOTA 55126  
651.490.4600 | shoreviewmn.gov

March 26, 2025

Josh Olson, Interim Director  
Community & Economic Development  
Ramsey County  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
210 Courthouse  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Subject: City of Shoreview support of legislation to expand Ramsey County HRA  
to include EDA functions**

Dear Director Olson:

On behalf of the City of Shoreview, I would like to express our full support of your efforts to gain legislative approval to expand the statutory authority of the Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to include economic development activities.

Ramsey County has demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering a thriving business environment, supporting emerging entrepreneurs, and diversifying industries throughout the county. The proposed legislative action would allow for small business programming to be included as an eligible use of the existing HRA levy, without creating a new taxing authority or increasing property taxes for Ramsey County residents. This approach aligns with the shared goal of creating a sustainable and prosperous business ecosystem for our communities.

The expansion of HRA powers for economic development purposes would provide Ramsey County with greater capacity to support local businesses through enhanced technical assistance, capacity building for business support organizations, and access to additional flexible capital. These resources are critical to supporting the small businesses, while continuing to uphold our shared and steadfast commitment to affordable housing and redevelopment initiatives.

The City of Shoreview recognizes the significant benefits this legislative change would have in providing more resources to support our local businesses community. We also understand the importance of collaboration in achieving these goals and believe that expanding the authority of the HRA to include economic development activities is a crucial step toward addressing the needs of businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region.

We are excited to continue our close partnership with Ramsey County in strengthening and diversifying our local business community. The City of Shoreview fully endorses this legislative by Ramsey County request and strongly encourages the approval of the expanded authority during this session.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Sue Denking  
City of Shoreview

## RESOLUTION NO. 13489

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION EXPANDING THE RAMSEY COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY POWERS

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners of Ramsey County ("County") and the White Bear Lake 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 Housing and Redevelopment Authority ("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 Economic Development Authority ("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.

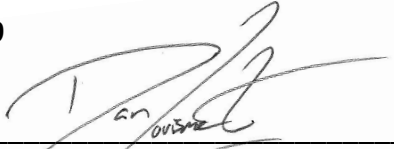
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of White Bear Lake hereby supports the County in its legislative endeavor and endorses proposed legislation that creates a Ramsey County EDA and expands the powers of the Ramsey County HRA to include Ramsey County EDA powers (excluding 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.

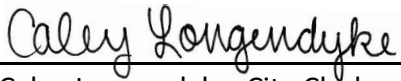
The foregoing resolution, offered by Councilmember Edberg and supported by Councilmember Hughes, was declared carried on the following vote:

Ayes: Edberg, Engstran, Hughes, Walsh, West  
Nays: None  
Passed: March 25, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. 13489**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Louismet, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Caley Longendyke, City Clerk

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

March 26, 2025

No. 25-27

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**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 Falcon Heights 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** by the City Council of the City of Falcon Heights, Minnesota:

1. 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** by the City Council of the City of Falcon Heights, Minnesota:

1. That the City commits to the collaboration and the processes necessary for the passing and implementation of said legislation.

Moved by: Meyer

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Randall C. Gustafson  
Mayor

GUSTAFSON  
MEYER  
LEEHY  
WASSENBERG  
MIELKE

5

In Favor

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Against

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Jack Linehan  
City Administrator

**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

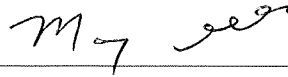
**WHEREAS**, the City supports the County in pursuing legislation to secure channels to fund small businesses located within the City and believes such funding will be beneficial to the City and essential for stability and growth; and

**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).

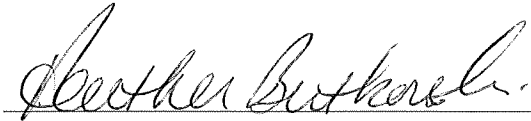
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City commits to the collaboration and the processes necessary for the passing and implementation of said legislation.

ADOPTED, by the City Council of Lauderdale this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Gaasch", written above a horizontal line.

Mary Gaasch, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Butkowski", written above a horizontal line.

Heather Butkowski, City Administrator