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**Sponsor:** Finance

**Meeting Date:** 10/19/2021

**Title:** Joint Powers Agreement for the Central Certification Program.

**File Number:** 2021-588

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**Background and Rationale:**

Ramsey County is a member of the Central Certification (CERT) Program, in partnership with Hennepin County and the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (collectively, the Collaborative).

A Joint Powers Agreements (JPA) was submitted for approval and approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners in 2018. Unfortunately, the JPA was not fully executed by all parties at that time. As a result, the Procurement Division within the Finance Department is recommending that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approve the revised JPA which includes the city of Minneapolis and stipulates the city of Saint Paul continue as the lead agency for CERT. The JPA is also being submitted for approval by the governing bodies of the other Collaborative members, and, when approved, will allow the Collaborative to continue to build on the service provided to small business enterprises in the local marketplace. The new JPA is for a term of twelve months upon execution. The term shall automatically renew annually, unless a majority of the Collaborative members withdraw, or the Collaborative is dissolved. Collaborative members can withdraw by giving a 60-day notice. This JPA includes revisions to the Subscriber clause and inclusion of a Counterparts clause and an Electronic Signature clause.

In 1999, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and Independent School District 625 (collectively, the Collaborative) began to offer a centralized program for certification of small business enterprises, and/or women-owned business enterprises and/or minority-owned business enterprises and/or minority-women owned business enterprises. The certification program became known as the Central Certification Program and was managed by an outside consultant from 1999 through 2003 when the Saint Paul Schools -Independent School District 625 withdrew from the program due to program funding cuts.

In 2004, a JPA was created and submitted by the Collaborative Executive Committee for approval by the governing bodies of the Collaborative members. Since 2004, the city of Saint Paul has served as the lead agency for the CERT. In 2011, the city of Minneapolis left the collaborative but decided to rejoin the Collaborative in 2017.

In 2018, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a revised JPA which included the city of Minneapolis and stipulated that the city of Saint Paul continue as the lead agency for the CERT. The JPA term was May 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020, unless terminated sooner, and Collaborative members could withdraw by giving a 60-day notice. The term would automatically renew annually, unless a majority of the Collaborative members withdrew, or the Collaborative was dissolved.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Joint Powers Agreement for the Central Certification Program from the date of execution for one year with annual automatic renewals, unless a majority of the Central Certification Program members withdraw, or the program is dissolved.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner McGuire.  
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

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Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board