
Sponsor: Sheriff's Office

Meeting Date: 2/6/2024

Title: Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for Participation in the Violent Crime Reduction Unit

File Number: 2024-018

Background and Rationale:

The state of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is establishing the Violent Crime Reduction Unit. As a statewide team, the Violent Crime Reduction Unit is an interagency collaborative approach to reducing and preventing violent crime, which focuses on gun violence and firearms crimes; crimes against the person, including homicides, assaults, carjackings, and other violent crimes; street racing and automobile theft; and the apprehension of dangerous fugitives. The Violent Crime Reduction Unit also engages in public awareness, outreach, and prevention efforts with the community.

For reference, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), requested funding from the legislature for "a new statewide initiative to utilize partnerships with BCA leadership to address violent crime as it ebbs and flows across the state of Minnesota." The state recognized "the current challenges with police staffing" and "this initiative would combine fulltime BCA agents, analysts, and other personnel to provide assistance to communities combatting violent crime through an information driven approach to precisely target only those who are committing violent acts in those communities." Funding is provided to support personnel assigned to this initiative.

Participation in the task force allows the Sheriff's Office to work together with federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes. Task force participation also provides reimbursement from the state for personnel costs as outlined in the Joint Powers Agreement.

A Joint Powers Agreement, as permitted under Minnesota Statutes 471.59, is required for participation. The term of the agreement is upon final execution through three (3) years from the fully executed agreement.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, 1430 Maryland Street East, Saint Paul, MN 55106 for participation in the Violent Crime Reduction Unit upon execution through three (3) years from the fully executed agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreement.
3. Approve an increase in the personnel complement of the Sheriff's Office by 1.0 Full Time Equivalent Deputy Sheriff.

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

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Martinson

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board