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**Sponsor:** Workforce Solutions

**Meeting Date:** 11/5/2024

**Title:** Appointments to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County

**File Number:** 2024-474

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**Background and Rationale:**

Local workforce development boards are required entities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide oversight for the public workforce system. The Workforce Innovation Board (WIB) serves as the local workforce development board for Ramsey County. The 33 WIB members represent business, community-based organizations (CBO), one-stop center partners, organized labor, economic development, education and elected officials. Eighteen of the members are appointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and 15 are appointed by the Mayor of Saint Paul for two-year terms.

Currently, there are two Business and one CBO openings on the WIB. Three applications have been received to fill these seats: Ismail Ali of the Minnesota Technology Association to serve the remainder of the term of a Business seat beginning November 5, 2024, and ending July 31, 2025; Ethel Garcia of Innovize to serve the remainder of the term of a Business seat beginning November 5, 2024, and ending July 31, 2026; and Fidelity Goodlaxson of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties to serve the remainder of the term of the CBO seat beginning November 5, 2024, and ending July 31, 2026.

At its September 25, 2024 meeting, the WIB's Executive Committee voted to recommend approval of these appointments. On October 10, 2024, the applications and recommendations were forwarded to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for review.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Appoint Ismail Ali (Business) to serve on the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County for a term beginning November 5, 2024 and ending on July 31, 2025.
2. Appoint the following individuals to serve on the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County for a term beginning November 5, 2024 and ending on July 31, 2026.
  - Ethel Garcia (Business)
  - Fidelity Goodlaxson (Community-Based Organization)

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

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



By: Jason Yang  
Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County  
Board