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**Sponsor:** Safety and Justice

**Meeting Date:** 4/21/2026

**Title:** Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Maplewood for the Appropriate Responses Initiative's Community Responders Pilot Program

**File Number:** 2026-127

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**Background and Rationale:**

Appropriate Responses Initiative (ARI) was created through a co-design process where stakeholders were brought together from across the county including Ramsey County community members, internal staff, police departments (including the Ramsey County Sheriff's office), city officials including a suburban city representative and police and fire representation from St. Paul and suburban Ramsey County. Co-design members also represented the community through youth, cultural, faith, service provision organizations, advocacy and lived experiences.

Co-design was used to discuss the ways the system was currently working and opportunities that were seen for changes. In regard to public safety, members found:

1. Law enforcement needed help and support in responding to calls that they did not have specialized training in.
2. The individuals answering the 911 calls needed a deeper set of resources to be able to meet the complex and nuanced needs of the people on the other end of the phone.
3. Community members needed responses that centered wellness, invested in community institutions, and helped people get the core of their needs met.

In partnership with the City of Maplewood the launch of ARI's Community Responders pilot program will provide alternative response services to a subset of low-level, non-violent, non-life-threatening 911 calls and resident situations in the city. Community Responders will provide in the moment support by connecting residents to resources based on needs, complete outreach to city organizations and residents, as well as follow-up with community members after immediate situations has been resolved.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the joint powers agreement with the City of Maplewood for the Appropriate Responses Initiative's Community Responders Pilot Program for a period upon execution through December 31, 2026.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the joint powers agreement.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Xiong.  
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

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