
Sponsor: Board of Commissioners

Meeting Date: 2/3/2026

Title: Ramsey County Board Resolution Condemning Operation Metro Surge and Supporting the Federal Response Action Team

File Number: 2026-064

Background and Rationale:

The Federal Government launched Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota in December 2025, deploying an unprecedented number of immigration enforcement agents to the State - an estimated 3,000 agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), which outnumbers the combined total officers working for Twin Cities metro law enforcement agencies.

Operation Metro Surge has involved immigration enforcement actions in Minnesota that, according to media reports and first-hand resident accounts, have disproportionately targeted Somali, Latino, Asian, and other non-white residents. Media reports and information from residents indicate that residents have been harassed, unjustly detained, and physically assaulted by federal immigration enforcement agents during this surge.

Reports describe racial profiling, intimidation, excessive use of force, unlawful arrests and detentions, and retaliation against individuals documenting ICE activities. The tactics used-including armed operations, warrantless searches and arrests, and enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courts undermine public safety. Numerous reports of immigration agents pepper spraying, damaging property, tackling, and forcibly detaining legal residents have emerged during the surge. These actions have caused widespread fear, trauma, and disruption in Ramsey County communities, eroding public trust, limiting residents' ability to participate in daily life, and hindering county workers' ability to deliver services effectively. Housing and food security concerns are increasing in Ramsey County.

Ramsey County operations and services have been disrupted. Many residents are fearful and hesitant to access services. Operation Metro Surge is causing fear, anxiety, chaos and immediate harm and disrupting both the lives of residents and the provision of critical county services--deterring people from interacting with government and community programs. Residents have canceled or rescheduled appointments within public health programs such as Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services, family home visiting, family health, early childhood, family education, and are relying more on virtual services. The county is experiencing and anticipating revenue losses as events are postponed or canceled, and residents are withdrawing from participation in county-run programs and activities. Programs are being evaluated and pivoted to ensure access and availability for all residents when in person connections are jeopardized. These disruptions are compounded by financial strain and distraction on the county, as staff are required to absorb increased workloads and redirect time and resources to address escalating community needs and operational challenges caused by Operation Metro Surge.

In addition, community disruptions are significant for Ramsey County residents including schools pivoting to online learning and businesses temporarily closing. Local businesses, particularly those in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods, are experiencing significant losses. Workers are afraid to go to work, customers are staying away, and some businesses have closed operations or reduced hours

because of fear linked to the enforcement activities.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Condemns the aggressive tactics used by immigration enforcement agents and mourns the loss of life, physical injury, and community trauma resulting from Operation Metro Surge.
2. Denounces the violent and unconstitutional actions taken by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minnesota, acknowledge the fear and trauma these actions have caused in local communities, and affirm the County's commitment to upholding constitutional rights and public safety.
3. Calls on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to immediately cease and permanently end Operation Metro Surge.
4. Condemns the preventable and brutal killing of Renee Nicole Good - a 37-year-old U.S. citizen who was fatally shot by two ICE agents in Minneapolis on January 7, 2026 and Alex Pretti - a 37-year-old U.S. citizen also fatally shot by an ICE agent in Minneapolis on January 24, 2026.
5. Requests an independent or parallel investigation to be conducted by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Force Investigations Unit (FIU) to ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust.
6. Urge strong and humane protection of our borders while ensuring clear, consistent, and fair pathways to citizenship for refugees, asylum seekers, and others seeking safety and opportunity.
7. Calls for due process for all individuals who have been detained, the full release of all unlawfully detained, including children, and reunification of families.
8. Directs the County Manager to establish a structured and coordinated response to Operation Metro Surge, including but not limited to the following actions:
 - a. Utilize legal resources to ensure Ramsey County parks and recreational parking lots and property are not improperly appropriated by the Department of Homeland Security.
 - b. Lead ongoing efforts through Federal Response Action Team encompassing both operational and legislative efforts, to pursue the following outcomes and provide weekly updates to Commissioners on work including:
 - i. Partnering with trusted community organizations to provide eviction prevention and food security.
 - ii. Finding additional ways for residents to access county services with virtual options similar to COVID response.
 - iii. Developing a cohesive communications strategy for the County workforce, subsidiaries, and partners for the purpose of aligned and accurate messaging and to mitigate inaccurate information.
 - iv. Continue to train staff on immigration enforcement interactions.
 - v. Review policies and procedures to identify adjustments needed to protect the safety, well-being, and rights of clients, workers, partners, and residents including installation of signage reflecting parking lots are for designated county activities only.
 - vi. Continue to plan for and mitigate long term mental health and economic impacts to the community.
 - c. Evaluate opportunities to utilize and leverage the county's Alternative Response Initiative.
 - d. Share reporting resources for employees to report unconstitutional or unlawful activity that impact the safety, well-being, and rights of community.
 - e. Provide high-level periodic updates on county impacts of Operation Metro Surge to members of the Ramsey County Congressional delegation.
 - f. Engage government partners to assess the impacts of Operation Metro Surge and plan responses to future federal agent deployments.

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

Motion passed.

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

By: 
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board