
Sponsor: Safety and Justice

Meeting Date: 7/1/2025

Title: Joint Powers Agreements and Related Amendments with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

File Number: 2025-226

Background and Rationale:

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) provides criminal justice data communications network and tools to authorized agencies in Minnesota. To access the Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network (CJDN) the BCA requires each eligible agency to have a separate joint powers agreement (JPA) tailored to that department or office's needs and security requirements. The Court Data Services Subscriber Amendment supplements the JPA between the BCA and Ramsey County. The Subscriber Amendment adds the Minnesota Court's data system as a party to the agreement and creates obligations for the county in order to gain access to that system which can be enforced by the Court.

The CJDN and the Minnesota Court's data system maintains repositories of data from federal and state law enforcement agencies. The BCA serves as the gatekeeper for this data and allows authorized agencies across the state access to this data for a variety of reasons. Ramsey County departments and offices can use this data for detection, enforcement, prosecution, adjudication or incarceration in respect to the criminal, civil, or traffic laws of the state. County departments and offices may also use this data to review and determine individual's eligibility for employment, housing, licensing, or other legal rights dependent on a statutorily mandated background check. This agreement also provides the county with the flexibility to add, modify, and delete accounts as needed. Departments can also determine which systems and tools they want access in support their official duties.

Previously, the Ramsey County Board has executed JPAs with the BCA for the Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's Office, Community Corrections, and the Department of Emergency Communications. Currently, the JPA with the Department of Emergency Communications, the County Attorney's Office, and Community Corrections will expire in two months and the JPA with the Sheriff's Office will expire within the next twelve months. In the effort to be more efficient and consolidate board actions the attached JPAs will be renewed now. The Sheriff's office will submit a separate board action at a later date.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve a joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Ramsey, on behalf of the Ramsey County Department of Emergency Communications to utilize Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network for an additional five-year period upon the execution of the agreement.
2. Approve a joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Ramsey, on behalf of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office to utilize Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network for an additional five-year period upon the execution of the agreement.
3. Approve a joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the County of Ramsey, on behalf of the Ramsey County Department of Community Corrections to utilize Minnesota Criminal Justice Data Communications Network for an additional five-year period upon the execution of the agreement.
4. Approve an amendment to the Court Services Data Subscriber Amendment by the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension by and for the benefit of the State of Minnesota acting through its State Court Administrator's Office, and the County of Ramsey, on behalf of Ramsey County Attorney's Office.
5. Approve an amendment to the Court Services Data Subscriber Amendment by the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension by and for the benefit of the State of Minnesota acting through its State Court Administrator's Office, and the County of Ramsey, on behalf of Ramsey County Department of Community Corrections.
6. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign and execute three joint powers agreements.
7. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign and execute two Court Services Data Subscriber Amendments.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Jebens-Singh, seconded by Commissioner Xiong. Motion passed.

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

By: _____



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board