
Sponsor: Sheriff's Office

Meeting Date: 2/10/2026

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

File Number: 2026-050

Background and Rationale:

On February 6, 2024, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a joint powers agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS), Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), for participation in the Violent Crime Reduction Unit (VCRU) through Resolution B2024-029. The state updated its standard JPA language to require participating agencies to submit monthly invoices in order to receive reimbursement of funds and incorporate reorganized language and related formatting edits.

Since 2024, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has participated in the VCRU. The VCRU is a state initiative that uses an interagency, collaborative approach to reducing and preventing violent crime. The initiative focuses on gun violence and firearms-related crimes; crimes against persons, including homicides, assaults, and carjackings; street racing and motor vehicle theft; and the apprehension of dangerous fugitives.

Funding for the VCRU is provided by the Minnesota Legislature and includes financial support for partner agencies to fund personnel assigned to the initiative. Participation in the unit allows the Sheriff's Office to collaborate with state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prevent, investigate, and prosecute violent crimes. Participation also provides reimbursement from the state for eligible personnel costs, as outlined in the JPA.

A JPA, as authorized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59, is required for participation. The term of the agreement is three years from the date of full execution.

The Ramsey County Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved this JPA.

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 years from the fully executed agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreement.

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
Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board