
Sponsor: Medical Examiner

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Title: Reappointment of the Ramsey County Medical Examiner and Agreement for Forensic Services

File Number: 2024-640

Background and Rationale:

The agreement and appointment of Kelly Mills, M.D. as Ramsey County Medical Examiner will expire on December 31, 2024. The County Manager is requesting the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to approve the agreement and to reappoint Dr. Mills as the County Medical Examiner for a two-year period from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026. The contract includes a rate increase of 2.5 percent per year and a \$180,000 increase in 2026 for an additional pathologist with all other the terms of the agreement remaining in effect. The additional pathologist is needed for case load certification and succession planning.

Minnesota Statutes 390.005 requires Ramsey County to maintain and operate a public morgue and the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to appoint a qualified Medical Examiner for a term not longer than four years. The Medical Examiner serves as the appointed public official with administrative control of a mandated system of death investigation. Dr. Kelly Mills satisfies the qualifications, certifications and licensing requirements to serve as a Medical Examiner for Ramsey County.

River Valley Forensic Services, PA. is an incorporated professional association of Dr. Kelly Mills and three forensic pathologists, who all maintain the required qualifications for medical examiner services. Dr. Mills will be responsible for investigations, autopsies, toxicological and laboratory analysis for Ramsey County. Dr. Mills is also responsible for the work of non-medical personnel employed by the county and assigned to the Medical Examiner's department.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Reappoint Kelly Mills, M.D. as the Medical Examiner of Ramsey County from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026.
2. Approve the agreement with Kelly Mills, DBA River Valley Forensic Services, PA, for a two-year period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026 in accordance with the rates established in the agreement.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.

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

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

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