

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
FOR
Appropriate Responses Initiative's Community Responders**

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

A. Ramsey County (hereinafter "County") and the City of Maplewood (hereinafter "City") (each a "Jurisdiction" and collectively the "Jurisdictions"), enter into this Joint Powers Agreement ("Agreement") pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 for the purpose of the Appropriate Responses Initiative's Community Responders pilot program] ("Program").

B. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as the creation of a new governmental body or a joint board, as that term is used in Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59.

II. OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM

A. The County shall launch the Appropriate Responses Initiative's Community Responders pilot program ("Program"), in the City to provide alternative response services to a subset of low-level, non-violent, non-life-threatening 911 calls and resident situations in the city. This agreement outlines the relationship between the County's Appropriate Responses Initiative (ARI) to implement community response services and the municipality receiving services.

B. The scope of this Program is the launch and implementation of Community Response with the County and its designated contractor in the City through the term of the Agreement. Community Responders will provide services within the following guidelines set by the County and the City:

1. Community Responders are utilized for a subset of nonviolent, non-life-threatening, low-level calls, as determined by City, to provide in-the-moment support.
2. Community Responders provide connections to resources.
3. Community Responders follow-up with community members after an immediate situation has resolved.
4. Community Responders complete outreach to City organizations and residents.
5. Other County responses may include Ramsey County Mental Health Crisis team for mental and chemical health related calls. Community Responders are not providing services for mental or chemical health related calls.

C. Roles and Responsibilities

1. County:
 - a) Implement Community Response in accordance with the scope and call types established and agreed upon by City and County as referenced in Section II.C.4.
 - b) Manage contract with vendor for Community Response and provide updates to the City.
 - c) Set and facilitate meetings to prepare for launch of Community Response.
 - d) Ensure Community Response contractor has access to required trainings and technology.
 - e) Schedule presentations about Community Response/ARI in City in preparation for and after launch.
 - f) Work with County and City communications department on outreach materials and resident communications regarding the Program.
 - g) Provide regular updates on Appropriate Responses to City.
 - h) Act as facilitator and intermediary for initial conversations with City and contractor.
 - i) Provide City with weekly reports that contain response data, implementation updates, program evaluation, and other materials related to Community Response activities as requested by the City.

2. City of Maplewood

- a) Support the County's implementation of Community Response in accordance with the scope and call types established and agreed upon by City and County as referenced in Section II.C.4.
- b) Attend meetings between County, contractor and other organizations to prepare for launch and implementation of Community Response.
- c) Share input on how City residents and leadership should be engaged by the County, including connections to existing resident advisory groups.
- d) Receive, review and request updates and data related to ARI in City.
- e) Provide feedback on response implementation.
- f) In the event the City is at the scene or event of the Community Response action, the City shall have final decision-making authority and operational control of any scene or event in which Community Responders are present or responding in partnership with the City.

3. Joint Responsibilities

- a. Launch of a 911-dispatchable community response in City.
- b. Community Responders respond to dispatched calls as determined by the City and County as referenced in Section II.C.4.
- c. Community Responders conduct proactive outreach and respond to community needs within the parameters established by this Agreement.

4. Community Responder 9-1-1 Response Call Types and Scope

- a. The following list are the types of calls which may be dispatched for Community Responders. The type of 9-1-1 calls include low level calls for service that are not medical, police or fire emergencies and do not include weapons (i.e., no crime and non-violent), but generally include de-escalation and conflict navigation and the following themes:
 - i. Supporting Neighbors
 - ii. Supporting Family
 - iii. Supporting Kids
 - iv. Supporting an Individual
 - v. Location Specific Support
- b. Outside of scope includes calls: involving traffic/responders going into active traffic, hospitals, and secure facilities; calls involving mental health or chemical health as primary concern
- c. Types of Calls may include but are not limited to: Assist Citizen (AST), Civil Problem (CIV), Code Enforcement (COD), Demonstration/Protest (DEM), Drunk Person (DKP), Juvenile (JUV), and Solicitor (SOL).
- d. Community Responders may respond to a City requested call through 9-1-1 dispatch or radio talk groups, which may include a co-response where both City and Community Responders are responding to a scene together at City request.

III. COMMUNICATION

- A. County and City share monthly response information and attend implementation check in meetings.
- B. County adds Community Response to Open Data Portal.
- C. County presents to City on Community Response pilot.
- D. City attends County meetings to share updates on Community Response in the city.
- E. County works with City communications team to share joint messaging regarding Community Response to residents.

IV. FUNDING

A. Funding for Community Response in the City is provided by County for launch through December 31, 2026. Funding beyond that point has not yet been determined and neither programming nor funding beyond the JPA period is included in this agreement.

V. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Management of the Program shall be directed by the following staff from each of the Jurisdictions:

- a. County – Gloria Reyes, Deputy County Manager, or their designee.
- b. City – Chief Bierdeman, Maplewood Police Chief or their designee.

VI. Data Practices

A. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, Subd. 1a.(a) each Jurisdiction will be responsible for its own acts and omissions and those of its officers, agents and employees with respect to any claims, lawsuits, or expenses for personal or property damages, losses or injuries, resulting from any activities undertaken pursuant to this Agreement. Nothing herein is intended or shall result in a waiver of the defenses or immunities, or monetary limits on damages that each Jurisdiction is entitled to by law. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 471.59, for purposes of determining total liability for damages, the Jurisdictions shall be considered a single governmental unit and the total liability for the Jurisdictions shall not exceed the limits on governmental liability for a single governmental unit as specified in section Minnesota Statutes Section 466.04, subdivision 1.

B. The Jurisdictions agree that government data created pursuant to the Program will be treated and shared in accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 and any other applicable data privacy laws. Staff from all Jurisdictions shall have access to government data created pursuant to the Program, but only to the extent necessary to carry out the Program.

VII. TERM and AMENDMENT

A. The terms and conditions described in this JPA are effective from the date this Agreement is signed to December 31, 2026, aligned with known program funding, but may be amended, renewed, or extended at any time by mutual written consent of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days' written notice to the other party.

B. This Agreement may be amended at any time by written agreement of the Jurisdictions.

C. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement. The facsimile, email or other electronically delivered signatures of the Jurisdictions shall be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies hereof shall be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MINNESOTA

By: _____

Michael Sable, City Manager

Date: _____

By: _____

Marylee Abrams, Mayor

Date: _____

Approved as to form:

City's Attorney

RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

By: _____

Rafael Ortega, Chair
Ramsay County Board of Commissioners

Date: _____

By: _____

Jason Yang, Chief Clerk
Ramsay County Board of Commissioners

Date: _____

Approval recommended:

Gloria Reyes 04/15/2026
Gloria Reyes, Deputy County Manager

Approved as to form:

Stacey D'Andrea 04/13/2026
Stacey D'Andrea, Assistant County Attorney