

# Housing and Redevelopment Authority Resolution

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

H2022-004

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**Sponsor:** Community & Economic Development

**Meeting Date:** 1/11/2022

**Title:** Environmental Response Fund Grant Awards

**File Number:** 2021-756

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## **Background and Rationale:**

In 1997, the Minnesota Legislature enacted Minnesota Statutes Section 383A.80 enabling Ramsey County to impose a mortgage registry and deed taxes equal to .0001 percent of the value of transferred properties in Ramsey County to establish an environmental response fund. In December 2002, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners imposed these taxes for the express purpose of creating a fund to mitigate contamination and foster redevelopment.

Applications for Environmental Response Fund (ERF) program funding are accepted on May 1st and November 1st of each year in conjunction with similar redevelopment and clean-up programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (MNDEED) and the Metropolitan Council.

Four ERF applications for funding assistance were submitted for consideration in November 2021 totaling \$531,399. The balance available in the ERF account for the current period is \$979,869.51. Submissions were evaluated based on adopted Ramsey County guidelines including the degree of soil contamination clean-up, financing gap, developer capacity, project readiness and short and long-term benefits to the community of Ramsey County's investment. Applicants are also asked and evaluated on the project's ability to address the following Ramsey County goals:

- strengthening individual, family and community health, safety and well-being;
- cultivating economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty;
- enhancing access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses.

The committee (comprised of staff from CED and Environmental Health) recommended awards totaling \$532,299 with the express condition that funding will be withdrawn if not spent within 18 months of approval. Unspent funds may be reallocated to future projects. Applications will be accepted through May 1 for the spring funding round in 2022.

Awards of the ERF to new projects will result in the creation of 196 new housing units, all 196 of which will be affordable housing units, numerous new job opportunities as well as a substantial increase in property values.

## **Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of 176 South Robert Street, Kimball Court, Central Village Apartments and Saint Paul City School to receive Environmental Response Funds.
2. Authorize the award of Environmental Response Funds for 176 South Robert Street in the amount of \$198,199, Kimball Court in the amount of \$136,500, Central Village Apartments in the amount of \$43,400, and Saint Paul City School in the amount of \$154,200.
3. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

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

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By:   
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Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board