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**Sponsor:** Sheriff's Office

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

**Title:** Amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota State Agricultural Society for Law Enforcement and Security Services

**File Number:** 2021-769

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**Background and Rationale:**

The Minnesota State Agricultural Society is the governing body responsible for the use and regulation of the land known as the State Fairgrounds. In May 2021, the Minnesota Agricultural Society disbanded the State Fair's longstanding police department, instead wishing to partner with another law enforcement agency to provide law enforcement services on the fairgrounds. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety recommended that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office was the appropriate choice to provide law enforcement services as the lead law enforcement agency.

The Agricultural Society identified the need for year-round law enforcement services, including: (1) general patrol and enforcement duties; (2) providing security services for special events held on the fairgrounds; (3) providing security services for the two-week pre-fair period; and (4) providing security services for the annual Fair. The Agricultural Society asked Ramsey County, through the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, to provide these services.

Since June 2021, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has provided law enforcement and security services at the State Fairgrounds, including serving as the lead law enforcement agency for the 2021 Minnesota State Fair. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is currently providing these services under agreements approved by the Ramsey County Board. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Finance department, Enterprise Risk Manager, Human Resources department, and the County Manager's Office, in partnership with various internal and external partners, worked together to make sure the terms of the Agreements protected the county from potential risks that could arise in the course of providing law enforcement services to the Minnesota State Fair.

On December 6, 2021, the Agricultural Society announced its intention to reinstate the Minnesota State Fair Police Department (MSFPD). The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has been working with the Agricultural Society to transition law enforcement and security services to the MSFPD. Additional time is required to hire sufficient staff to ensure a successful transition. As a result, the Agricultural Society has requested Ramsey County assist with the provision of law enforcement and security services on the Fairgrounds beyond the expiration of the initial term on December 31, 2021. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is recommending an extension of the one of the two agreements for law enforcement and security services through June 30, 2022. This extension does not include the 2022 Minnesota State Fair and agreement that covered the 2021 Minnesota State Fair expired on December 31, 2021.

The amendment requires the Agricultural Society to reimburse Ramsey County for these services and to defend and indemnify Ramsey County and its employees, officials, agents and representatives from any liability arising from the provision of services. The amendment extends through June 30, 2022, and terminate before the 2022 Minnesota State Fair.

On December 22, 2021, the County Manager signed a First Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota State Agricultural Society for law enforcement and security services. The First Amendment extended the Agreement for the period of January 1, 2022, through January 15, 2022, until the next available Ramsey County Board meeting. Both the agreement and previous board action, approved by the Ramsey County Board, allowed for amendments to be signed by the County Manager.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the First Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108-3003, for law enforcement and security services for the period of January 1, 2022, through January 15, 2022.
2. Approve the Second Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, 1265 Snelling Avenue North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108-3003 for law enforcement and security services for the period of January 16, 2022, through June 30, 2022.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Second Amendment.
4. Require a progress update from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota Agricultural Society on the transition of State Fair security services on or before April 5, 2022; the update should include a transition plan that recognizes the termination of the Joint Powers Agreement for security services with Ramsey County on June 30, 2022.
5. Require monthly updates from the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota State Agricultural Society during May, June and July of 2022 on the security services transition that should be completed by June 30, 2022.

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:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board