

Board of Commissioners Resolution

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-8350

Sponsor: County Assessor

Meeting Date: 10/13/2020

Title: 2020 Disaster Relief

Item Number: 2020-417

Background:

Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231 through 273.1235 authorize the County to provide property tax relief to the owners of property significantly damaged by disasters such as storms, floods, fires, arson and vandalism. Property tax relief is available in two forms: Local Option Disaster Abatement (Minnesota Statutes, section 273.1233) which reduces the property tax liability in the current year, and Local Option Disaster Credit (Minnesota Statutes, section 273.1235) which reduces the property tax liability in the year following the disaster. Both homestead and non-homestead properties may receive one or both forms of relief, provided that a structure on the property was more than 50% damaged as determined by the assessor and the county approves the property owner's application. In this situation, the 50% damage determination is made by the Ramsey County Assessor.

In addition to these statutory provisions, when a disaster occurs that affects a large geographic area, the State Executive Council may declare a disaster or emergency area. Homestead property within the declared area will receive Homestead Disaster Credit, regardless of the extent of damage and without application or approval by the county. Local Option Disaster Abatements for all property types within the declared area are still subject to the greater than 50% damage assessment, application and approval requirements. Local Option Disaster Credits for non-homestead property within the declared area are still subject to the greater than 50% damage assessment, application and approval requirements.

When the County Board provides disaster relief, it acts on the behalf of all taxing districts that have the authority to levy property tax upon the affected properties (e.g. cities, schools). Any disaster abatement or disaster credit provided by the County Board will reduce the property tax collections of all applicable taxing districts for the applicable tax year. The amount of the disaster abatement or disaster credit attributable to each taxing district is in the same proportion as the authority's tax rate is to the total tax rate.

Ramsey County experienced a disaster that occurred between May 28, 2020 and June 8, 2020. During the civil unrest, unlawful actors caused extensive property damage to structures in the City of Saint Paul and to a lesser extent in Roseville and Maplewood. Ramsey County was declared to be in a Local State of Emergency from May 28 through June 30, 2020 by County Board Resolution B2020-115. Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231 through 273.1235 provides for property tax relief upon reassessment of properties damaged by disaster, and upon application to the Governor of the State of Minnesota and the Executive Council.

The Ramsey County Assessor's Office has completed its review and reassessment of the damaged or destroyed properties and has made application for disaster relief to the Governor of the State of Minnesota and the Executive Council. The assumption is that the Executive Council will approve the

application at its next meeting. It is the recommendation of the County Auditor that the minimum requirements of the referenced statutes have been met and recommends that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves qualifying applications for Local Option Disaster Abatements and Local Option Disaster Credits made by the owners of property entitled to relief under state law. It is also recommended that Ramsey County requests that the Local Option Disaster Abatements and Local Option Disaster Credits granted to property owners under state law for the disaster that occurred between May 28, 2020 and June 8, 2020 be reimbursed by the State of Minnesota pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231 through 273.1235.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Local Option Disaster Abatements for:
 - 2051 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105
 - 1499 & 1505 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 1544 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 1484 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 720 Snelling Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 1161 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 399 Lexington Pkwy N, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 756 Snelling Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104
 - 970 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104
2. Approve delegation to the County Auditor to approve the following qualifying applications received by the County for Local Option Disaster Abatements and Local Option Disaster Credits that are related to the disaster that occurred between May 28, 2020 and June 8, 2020 but have yet to apply:
 - 1279 & 1271 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 342923130103)
 - 500 Snelling Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 342923230176)
 - 1370 & 1360 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 342923310017)
 - 1350 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 342923310026)
 - 470 & 474 Hamline Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 342923420022)
 - 1075 University Ave W, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 352923230202)
 - 448 Lexington Parkway N, Saint Paul, MN 55104 (PIN: 352923320146)
3. Approve the request that the Local Option Disaster Abatements and Local Option Disaster Credits granted to property owners under state law for the disaster that occurred between May 28, 2020 and June 8, 2020 be reimbursed by the State of Minnesota pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, sections 273.1231 through 273.1235.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Ayes – 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter. Motion passed.

By: _____
Janet M. Guthrie, Chief Clerk – County Board