

An ordinance requiring the establishment of the Housing Stability Department

WHEREAS, Housing stability for our residents has been a focus of Ramsey County for the last decade, but progress and coordination across stakeholders has been difficult to achieve. Building on the work of the Interdepartmental Housing Council, in 2019 an interim manager of Housing Stability was appointed to increase responsiveness and improve service coordination. This work has previously been done within the Health and Wellness Service Team ("HWST") and the Incident Management Team ("IMT"). The 2020-21 budget included an initiative to effectively address homelessness by reducing fragmentation in our current system through reorganization; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Housing Stability Department will align all county housing services, resources, staffing and programs in one organization. Further, the financing and development of housing infrastructure will be consolidated within the Community and Economic Department, which is within the Economic Growth and Community Investment ("EGCI") Service Team; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has determined that it would be in the best interests of the County to establish the Department of Housing Stability, and place it within the EGCI; and

WHEREAS, after establishing the Housing Stability Department, budget and FTEs supporting housing stability functions will be transferred to the department from the HWST and IMT; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.01 of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter requires that the establishment, structure, merger or abolishment of a department, office, agency, board or commission, must occur by approval of an ordinance; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN, that the Housing Stability Department is established, and shall be placed within the EGCI; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the budget and FTEs supporting housing stability functions will be transferred to the department from the HWST and IMT.