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**Sponsor:** County Manager's Office

**Meeting Date:** 12/22/2020

**Title:** Proposed Housing Stability Department Ordinance - Waive the Second Reading

**File Number:** 2020-574

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**Background and Rationale:**

Housing stability for 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. The 2020-2021 budget included an initiative to effectively address homelessness by reducing the fragmentation in our current system through reorganization.

The new Housing Stability Department will align all County housing services and programs in one organization. Further, the financing and development of housing infrastructure will be consolidated within the Community & Economic Development department, which is also within the Economic Growth and Community investment (EGCI) Service Team.

Placement of the new Housing Stability Department within the EGCI Service Team strategically and operationally aligns all resources, funding, staffing and programs along the housing continuum: Emergency Housing > Supportive Housing > Subsidized Housing > Long-Term Stability within one Service Team to improve the delivery of services to our residents.

After creation of the department, budget and full time equivalents supporting housing stability functions will be transferred to the Housing Stability Department from the Health & Wellness Service Team (HWST) and the Incident Management Team (IMT).

The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter section 5.01A.1 states that acts of the County Board which shall be by ordinance include the following: Establish, structure, merge, or abolish any county department, office, agency, board or commission, except as provided for in this charter.

The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter section 5.02 states each proposed ordinance shall receive two readings: first, at the time it is presented, and second, at the time of the public hearing as required by law. Both readings may be waived if a copy of the ordinance is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction.

In accordance with these requirements, the proposed Housing Stability Department Ordinance was provided to each Commissioner prior to its introduction on December 1, 2020. Therefore, the second reading may be waived by duly made motion and majority vote.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Waive the Second Reading of the proposed Housing Stability Department Ordinance.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner MatasCastillo, seconded by Commissioner McDonough.

Motion passed.

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

By:   
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Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board