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**Sponsor:** Economic Growth and Community Investment

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

**Title:** Amendments to Agreements with Best Western Como Park and Best Western Capitol Ridge in Response to COVID-19 Homelessness

**File Number:** 2020-609

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**Background and Rationale:**

On March 17, 2020, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a temporary declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners also approved the use of up to \$1.8 million from the General Contingency Account for temporary quarantine and isolation facilities for residents experiencing homelessness. Ramsey County subsequently opened a COVID-19 Respite for isolation/quarantine and leased protective housing units at area hotels, including Best Western Como Park and Best Western Capitol Ridge.

On June 16, 2020, the County Board approved \$4.1M in CARES Act funding from the \$40 million for 130 unclassified limited duration full-time equivalents for Ramsey County's COVID-19 Respite and Hotel operations. Since COVID-19 began, Ramsey County has responded to the needs of residents experiencing homelessness by establishing Mary Hall, utilizing the former Boys Totem Town (BTT), establishing lease agreements for shelter at Bethesda Hospital and Luther Seminary, and securing hotel space at various locations. In addition to rooms and beds, meals, staffing, janitorial services, security, supplies, personal protective equipment and other needed items were included.

For the first amendment to the agreement with Best Western Como Park, which is designated for single women and couples experiencing homelessness, up to 80 rooms are on contract through May 31, 2021. Laundry services are available for use. The total cost of the agreement is now \$1,690,000. For the second amendment to the agreement with Best Western Capitol Ridge, which is designated for elders experiencing homelessness, the original 92 rooms are included plus an additional 33 rooms on reserve, which includes a minimum of 46 meals daily, including meals for all 125 rooms through May 31, 2021. Total cost for this agreement is now \$3,493,721.

The total cost of both agreements is up to \$5,183,721. All current services will end on December 30, 2020 if the contracts are not extended.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the First Amendment to the Agreement with the Best Western Como Park, 1010 Bandana Boulevard West, Saint Paul, MN 55108, to provide hotel rooms through May 31, 2021 at an amount not to exceed \$1,690,000 for residents experiencing homelessness.
2. Approve the Second Amendment to the Agreement with Best Western Capitol Ridge, 161 Saint Anthony Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55103, to provide hotel rooms and meals through May 31, 2021 at an amount not to exceed \$3,493,721 for residents experiencing homelessness.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute the Amendments to the Agreements.
4. Authorize \$5,183,721 in 2021 from funding that will come from the Homelessness Project funds for these agreements.
5. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the agreements in accordance with the County's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

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

Motion passed.

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

By:   
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Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board