
Sponsor: Communications & Public Relations

Meeting Date: 3/9/2021

Title: Inclusion of Support for Hmong American Partnership's Requested Bonding Change in the 2021 State Legislative Platform

File Number: 2021-145

Background and Rationale:

In the 2019 legislative session Hmong American Partnership received \$5.5 million in bonding dollars through the State's bonding process. The City of Saint Paul was listed as the bonding fiscal agent. Hmong American Partnership is requesting Ramsey County be given the ability to be the bonding fiscal agent instead of Saint Paul and advancing an amendment to MN Laws 2019, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 6. with rider language as stated below:

St. Paul - Southeast Asian Language Job Training Facilities

For a grant to Ramsey County ~~the city of St. Paul~~ to ~~acquire predesign, design, renovate, construct, furnish, and equip~~ a bus driver and mechanics training facility on Sycamore Street in St. Paul for training drivers and mechanics through programming primarily in the Southeast Asian languages, and to ~~acquire predesign, design, renovate, construct, furnish, and equip~~ a training facility on Plato Avenue in St. Paul for use as a training facility for health care, manufacturing, and information technology jobs through programming provided primarily in the Southeast Asian languages. Notwithstanding the primary focus as workforce training facility described above, a portion of the Plato site may be used for childcare facilities open to the public but primarily intended to improve programming outcomes for students and participants of the training programs. A portion of both the Plato and Sycamore sites may include on-site wrap-around supportive services to assist the participants in training programs in securing housing, mental health, adult basic education, health care enrollment and access. ~~This appropriation may be used to acquire property for these purposes.~~ The county ~~city of St. Paul~~ may enter into a lease or management agreement with a nonprofit corporation for either or both of these facilities under Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.695

Ramsey County will continue to work with the Hmong American Partnership on the details regarding the requirements on GO Bond funding from the State. Additional reviews and work is in process and more information will be shared as Ramsey County and Hmong American Partnership work together if this change is passed by the Legislature. After the County due diligence process concludes, any subsequent recommendation to move forward on the project will be brought to the County Board for its consideration

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Amend the 2021 State Legislative Platform to support Hmong American Partnership's legislation to change the bonding fiscal agent from the City of Saint Paul to Ramsey County for the Saint Paul job training facility and support a cash appropriation if available
2. Authorize county representatives to work with members of the legislature and other interested parties to support this legislation

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

Motion passed.

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

By: 

Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board