

AGREEMENT

between

RAMSEY COUNTY

and

COUNCIL 5 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 This agreement entered into by Ramsey County, hereinafter referred to as the Employer, and Council #5, affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the Union, has as its purpose, the promotion of harmonious relations between the Employer and the Union; the establishment of an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences; and the establishment of rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

LOCAL #8 - COUNTY ATTORNEYS
INDEX - 2025-2027 Contract

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ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION

- 2.1 The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive representative for the bargaining unit defined as follows:
- All Assistant County Attorneys who are public employees within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes 179A.03, Subd. 14, excluding supervisory, confidential, and all other employees.
- 2.2 The Employer shall not enter into any agreements covering terms and conditions of employment with the employees of the bargaining unit under the jurisdiction of this Agreement either individually or collectively which in any way conflicts with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, except through the certified representative.

ARTICLE 3 UNION SECURITY

- 3.1 The Employer agrees to deduct the Union dues from the pay of the list of employees within that bargaining unit that is provided to the Employer by the Union. The amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the Employer by a representative of the Union, and the aggregate deductions of all employees shall be remitted together with an itemized statement, to the representative by the first of the succeeding month, after such deductions are made.
- 3.2 The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the Employer harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the Employer as a result of any action taken or not taken by the Employer under the provisions of this Article.
- 3.3 The Employer shall furnish the Union each month a list of new employees hired in positions in the bargaining unit and the Employer shall further provide the Union with the statutorily required reports.
- 3.4 The Employer shall provide a payroll deduction for voluntary employee contributions to the Union's Political Action Committee as directed by the Union to the Employer if such contribution is determined to be legal by the Ramsey County Attorney.
- 3.5 The Employer must allow the Union to meet with newly hired bargaining unit members in accordance with Minnesota Statute 179A.07, Subd. 9. Should this law or applicable rules and regulations change, the parties agree to remain compliant with such changes.

ARTICLE 4 NO STRIKE - NO LOCKOUT

- 4.1 Neither the Union, its officers or agents, nor any of the employees covered by this Agreement will engage in, encourage, sanction or support any strike, or the withholding in whole or in part of the full performance of their duties during the life of this Agreement, except as specifically allowed by the Public Employment Labor Relations Act. In the event of a violation of this Article, the County will warn employees of the consequences of their action and shall instruct them to immediately return to their normal duties. Any employee who fails to return to their full duties within twenty-four (24) hours of such warning may be subject to the penalties provided in the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.
- 4.2 No lockout shall be instituted by the Employer and/or its appointing authorities during the term of this contract.

ARTICLE 5 EMPLOYER AUTHORITY

- 5.1 It is recognized by both parties that except as expressly stated herein, the Employer shall retain rights and authority necessary to operate and direct all the affairs of the department, including, but not limited to, directing the working force; controlling all operations and services; determining the methods, means, organization and number of personnel by which operations and services are to be conducted; changing or eliminating equipment or facilities; and taking whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the missions of the Employer in emergencies. Such authority shall be subject to the Canons of Ethics and Disciplinary Rules governing the practice of law.

ARTICLE 6 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

- 6.1 Part-time employees with provisional, probationary or permanent status shall be eligible to earn all employee benefits on a pro rata basis provided that such employees work not less than thirty-two (32) hours in each pay period worked and are assigned a regular work schedule, as opposed to being subject to call or to work when available. Part-time employees shall be eligible for the County pro rata Insurance program if such employees work not less than forty (40) hours per pay period. Employees whose average paid hours are at least fifty percent (50%) but less than seventy five percent (75%) of full time shall receive two-thirds (2/3) of the County contribution towards insurance benefits. Employees who are regularly scheduled to work between sixty (60) and eighty (80) hours per pay period shall receive contributions towards health and dental premiums at the same rate as full-time employees.
- 6.2 Part-time employees shall be paid an hourly rate computed by dividing the full-time annual rate for which they would be eligible by 2,080 hours.

ARTICLE 7 HOLIDAYS

7.1 Employees for whom a legal holiday is a scheduled day of work shall be paid at their regular rate of pay for work performed on the legal holiday and be granted an alternative day off or cash payment at their regular rate of pay as approved by the Employer. Provisional, probationary and permanent employees are eligible for holidays as described in this Article, except as described in Article 7.4, with respect to provisional employees. Employees who are required to work at least five (5) hours of an eight (8) hour shift on Christmas Day, December 25, or New Year's Day, January 1, shall be paid their regular rate of pay for hours worked on the holiday and shall be credited with sixteen (16) additional hours which shall be compensated by pay or compensatory time-off at the discretion of the department head.

No other overtime or differential pay shall be earned when this provision is in effect.

7.2 Designated holidays shall be eight (8) hours each and are defined as:

New Year's Day	January 1st
Martin Luther King's Birthday	The third Monday in January
Presidents' Day	The third Monday in February
Memorial Day	The last Monday in May
Juneteenth	June 19th
Independence Day	July 4th
Labor Day	The first Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11th
Thanksgiving Day	The fourth Thursday in November
Thanksgiving Friday	The Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day	December 25 th
Floating Holidays	Sixteen (16) hours each year

7.3 When New Year's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Christmas Day or Veterans' Day falls on Sunday, the following day shall be a holiday for employees who work a Monday through Friday schedule. When New Year's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Christmas Day or Veterans' Day falls on Saturday, the preceding day shall be a holiday for employees who work a Monday through Friday schedule.

7.4 Every employee with probationary or permanent status shall be eligible for "floating holidays" on the following basis:

- 1) Employees shall be entitled to up to sixteen (16) hours per year.
- 2) Any floating holiday in excess of the maximum accumulation allowed shall be lost to the employee annually on the pay period including June 30.
- 3) Full-time and part-time employees shall receive up to sixteen (16) hours of floating holiday annually on the first full pay period following the pay period including June 30, pro-rated for part-time employees.
- 4) Probationary Employees will not be paid unused floating holiday hours if employment terminates.
- 5) Floating holidays shall be taken at a time mutually agreeable to the employee and the department.

7.5 On those occasions when holidays fall during the workweek Monday through Friday, employees working the four (4) day week, ten (10) hour day schedule will for that week, work an eight (8) hour per day schedule and receive the holiday as scheduled for that week in the same manner as employees working the regular schedule of hours and days per week, unless otherwise provided by department work schedules.

ARTICLE 8 SICK LEAVE

- 8.1 Each full-time provisional, probationary and permanent employee shall earn sick leave at the rate of 4.6154 hours for each pay period. Sick leave accrual will be based on actual hours on paid status in a pay period and will be prorated for full-time provisional, probationary, and permanent employees who work less than 80 hours in a pay period. There will be no loss in accrual for unpaid union leave up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods.
- 8.2 Permanent, regularly scheduled employees may accumulate the unused portion of sick leave without any maximum restrictions.
- 8.3 The Employer and the Union agree that Sick Leave shall comply with or exceed the Minnesota Earned Safe and Sick Time Law (Minn. Stat. 181-9445-181.9448), and may be authorized for the following reasons with the limitations as specified:
- (1) For illness or injury, dental or medical care for the employee or their family members as defined in Minnesota Earned Safe and Sick Time Law (Minn. Stat. 181.9445). Sick leave usage by the employee shall be subject to approval and verification by the department head who may require the employee to furnish reasonable documentation after three consecutive absences from a scheduled workday.
 - (2) An employee may use sick leave for the closure of the employee's place of business due to weather or other public emergency or an employee's need to care for a family member whose school or place of care has been closed due to weather or other public emergency except as provided in Minnesota Statute 181.9447, Subd. 12.
 - (3) An employee may use sick leave for safety leave for assistance to themselves or their relatives as described in paragraph (1). For the purpose of this paragraph, "safety leave" is leave for the purpose of providing or receiving assistance because of sexual assault, domestic abuse or stalking pursuant to Minn. Stat. 181.9447.
 - (4) Sick leave not to exceed one hundred-sixty (160) hours may be utilized by employees for the birth or adoption of the employee's child or a child regularly residing in the employee's immediate household. The leave must be consecutive and taken within twelve (12) months of the birth or adoption.
 - (5) Pregnant employees of Ramsey County shall be eligible for the use of paid and unpaid sick leave in the same manner as any other disabled or ill Ramsey County employee. Such sick leave eligibility shall begin upon certification through reasonable documentation that due to pregnancy, the employee is disabled in terms of their ability to perform the duties of their position. Such employee shall then be eligible to receive sick leave benefits in the same manner as is provided for any other ill or injured County employee during the remaining period of pregnancy and until such time as the employee is certified able to return to work by a healthcare professional.
 - (6) In the event a pregnant employee elects to resign their employment because of pregnancy, such employee will be paid for accumulated sick leave up to but not exceeding one hundred-twenty (120) hours.
 - (7) Sick leave not to exceed eighty (80) hours may be utilized to make arrangements or attend funeral services or memorial, or address financial or legal matters that arise after the death of an employee's

ARTICLE 8 SICK LEAVE (Continued)

family member as defined in paragraph (1).

8.4 To be eligible for sick leave payment the employee will notify the Employer or designee in advance when the sick leave is foreseeable, but if it's not foreseeable, as soon as practicable. An employee cannot be required to seek or find a replacement worker to cover the sick leave hours used by the employee as a condition of the employee's use of sick leave.

8.5 Full-time employees who do not utilize any sick leave hours in a three (3) month period shall have the option of converting four (4) hours of sick leave to vacation or pay at the option of the employee. The three (3) month periods are from January 1 to March 30; April 1 to June 30; July 1 to September 30; and October 1 to December 31.

Part-time employees who do not utilize any sick leave hours in a three (3) month period shall have the option of converting sick leave to vacation or pay at the option of the employee, on a prorated basis, based on hours worked for the three (3) month period. The three (3) month periods shall be the same as identified in the preceding paragraph.

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8.6 If all positions in the classification in the department have been filled, in order to accommodate a person who returns to work after illness, the employee with least amount of seniority in the department in the classification shall vacate their position subject to any eligibility for transfer or reduction that they may have acquired under this Agreement.

8.7 Employees on sick leave with or without pay may not engage in other employment without the written approval of the Employer.

8.8 An employee must present a statement from a healthcare professional attesting to their fitness to return to work at the request of the Employer.

8.9 Should illness occur while an employee is on vacation the period of illness may be charged to sick leave and the charge to vacation reduced accordingly. An employee requesting such a change may be required to submit a written statement from a healthcare professional attesting to the illness and the period of disability.

8.10 Permanent and probationary employees who are injured while performing work within the scope of their employment for Ramsey County and by reason thereof are rendered incapable of performing their duties shall, upon approval by Human Resources, be granted sick leave for each work day up to a maximum of one hundred and thirty (130) days for which Workers' Compensation payments are made for said injury or illness, said sick leave not to be charged against normal sick leave they have accumulated. This additional sick leave shall be granted in an amount equal to and not exceeding the difference between any Workers' Compensation payments and one hundred percent (100%) of the employees' normal daily wage.

If their recovery is not complete by the end of the period described in paragraph (1) of Article 8.11, employees shall use their own accumulated sick leave to make up the difference between any Workers' Compensation payment made and one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's normal daily wage

ARTICLE 8 SICK LEAVE (Continued)

In the event an employee absence due to a work related injury does not qualify for Workers' Compensation solely because of a statutory waiting period, each day of said absence shall be considered as "a day for which Workers' Compensation benefits are paid" under the provisions of this section.

In no event shall this section be construed or operate to permit an employee to receive a combined wage and Workers' Compensation payment exceeding 100% of the employee's normal daily wage.

Any such employee unable to resume the duties of their position within or at the end of the recovery period, and on the exhaustion of accumulated normal sick leave, shall be eligible for the sick leave without pay provisions of this contract.

ARTICLE 9 VACATION

- 9.1 Vacations shall be granted at the time requested by the employee. If the nature of the work makes it necessary to limit the number of employees on vacation at the same time, the employee with the greater departmental seniority shall be given their choice of vacation period. Choice shall be by unit. Seniority shall prevail prior to May 1st of each year for the following six (6) months and prior to November 1st for the following six (6) months. All requests must be submitted by April 1 for vacations effective May 1 and October 1 for vacations effective November 1.
- 9.2 If a holiday occurs during the calendar week in which a vacation is taken by an employee, the employee's vacation used shall be reduced one (1) work day.
- 9.3 Any employee who is laid off, discharged, retired, or separated from the service of the Employer for any reason, prior to taking their vacation, shall be compensated in cash for the unused vacation they have accumulated at the time of separation.
- 9.4 Employees with an accumulation of sick leave credits in excess of one hundred eighty (180) days (1,440 hours), may convert excess days to vacation at the rate of two (2) days' sick leave to one (1) day vacation, but not to exceed five (5) days in any calendar year.
- 9.5 Each full-time provisional, probationary or permanent employee shall be granted vacation with pay for each full month of actual service rendered on the following basis. Vacation accrual will be based on actual hours on paid status in a pay period. There will be no loss in accrual for unpaid union leave up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods:

Number of years of Employment	Accrual in Hrs per pay period	Yrly Accrual in Hours	Maximum Accrual
Less than 4 years	4.6154	120	300
At least 4 years, but less than 15 years	6.1538	160	400
At least 15 years, but less than 23 years	6.4615	168	420
23 years or more	7.6923	200	500

- 9.6 Effective 2022, vacation may be accumulated to a maximum of two and a half times (2.5) the annual vacation earning rate of the employee.
- 9.7 Effective 2022, any vacation in excess of the maximum accumulation allowed shall be lost to the employee on the pay period including June 30.
- 9.8 Vacation may be used in units of one quarter (1/4) hour.
- 9.9 Adjustments to Initial Vacation Accrual – Credit for Previous Service
The Employer may, at its discretion, make adjustments to initial vacation accrual for new hires in accordance with County policy.

ARTICLE 10 SEPARATION PAY

- 10.1 Upon separation from the service by resignation, layoff, expiration of a leave of absence or death, a permanent employee, their designated beneficiary, or their estate shall be paid separation pay according to Article 10.8 below, provided:
- 10.2 That at the time of separation, the employee has at least one hundred (100) hours of accumulated sick leave to their credit.
- 10.3 That at the time of separation from the County service, the employee must have been employed by the County in the classified service for at least five (5) years prior to their separation, except that this section shall not apply to an employee whose cause of separation is death, layoff, or whose position has been abolished, or who was required to retire from the service under the provisions of the Compulsory Retirement Law, Laws of Minnesota 1981, Chapter 68, Section 38.
- 10.4 An employee who is laid off or whose position has been abolished shall have the option of waiting until their eligibility for reinstatement expires before applying for separation pay.
- 10.5 That no classified permanent employee who is on a leave of absence to accept a position in the exempt service of the County shall be eligible for separation pay until their employment is finally terminated.
- 10.6 That the rate of payment shall be based upon the regular hourly salary of the employee, in their permanent classification, at the time of separation. Separation as used in this rule means the last working day of the employee in the classified service.
- 10.7 That in the event an employee has been separated and paid for such accumulated sick leave and subsequently is re-employed, their sick leave shall be calculated as though they were a new employee.
- 10.8 Employees meeting the requirements of this Article will be paid separation pay based on one-half (1/2) of their accumulated sick leave hours at the time of separation according to the following schedule:

	<u>Maximum</u>
Employees with at least 100 hours sick leave and less than 480 hours -	\$ 5,000
Employees with at least 480 hours sick leave and less than 850 hours -	\$ 10,000
Employees with at least 850 hours sick leave and less than 1,000 hours -	\$ 11,000
Employees with at least 1,000 hours sick leave and less than 1,150 hours -	\$ 12,000
Employees with at least 1,150 hours sick leave and less than 1,300 hours -	\$ 13,000
Employees with at least 1,300 hours sick leave and less than 1,450 hours -	\$ 14,000
Employees with at least 1,450 hours sick leave and less than 1,600 hours -	\$ 15,000
Employees with at least 1,600 hours sick leave and less than 1,750 hours -	\$16,000
Employees with at least 1,750 hours sick leave and less than 1,900 hours -	\$17,000
Employees with at least 1,900 hours sick leave and less than 2,150 hours -	\$18,000
Employees with 2,150 hours or more -	\$19,000

- 10.9 Ramsey County will establish and administer a Post Termination Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) for the bargaining unit. During the term of this agreement, bargaining unit members will contribute one hundred percent (100%) of any separation payment received under the terms of this Article to the HCSP. This HCSP

ARTICLE 10 SEPARATION PAY (Continued)

will be effective upon ratification of this agreement by the bargaining unit and approval of the agreement by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners.

- 10.10 Separation payment may be deferred to January of the next calendar year if requested in writing by the employee.

ARTICLE 11 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- 11.1 Eligibility Requirements. Employees shall be eligible for leaves of absence after thirty (30) days' service with the Employer.
- 11.2 Application for Leave. Any request for a leave of absence shall be submitted in writing by the employee to the Employer or designee. The request shall state the reason the leave of absence is being requested and the length of time off the employee desires. Authorization for a leave of absence shall be furnished to the employee by the Employer or designee, and it shall be in writing.
- 11.3 A request for a leave shall be answered within ten (10) work days.
- 11.4 In addition to accruing seniority while on any leave of absence granted under the provisions of this Agreement, employees shall be returned to the position in their department if the leave is for sixty (60) days or less and to their classification in their department if the leave is in excess of sixty (60) days.
- 11.5 Employees shall be granted a leave of absence with pay any time they are required to report to jury duty or jury service. All fees shall be returned to the Employer except those paid for duty on the employee's normal day off and those paid for meals and mileage. Any hours not on jury duty shall be worked.
- 11.6 Personal Leave. Leaves of absence not to exceed six (6) months may be granted. Such leave may be extended or renewed not to exceed a total leave of twelve (12) months.
- 11.7 Union Business. Employees elected to any Union office or selected by the Union to do work which takes them from their employment with the Employer, shall at the written request of the Union, be granted a leave of absence without pay.
- 11.8 Maternity. Maternity leaves, not to exceed six (6) months, shall be granted at the request of the employee.
- 11.9 Effective 1/1/25, the County will provide eight (8) weeks of paid parental leave (pro-rated for part-time employees) for the birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child in the employee's home. This 8 weeks of paid parental leave program (pro-rated for part-time employees) will continue until a state parental leave program is in effect, at which point this provision will sunset. Paid parental leave shall be utilized within six (6) months following the birth or adoption of a child(ren). Paid parental leave must be exhausted prior to using unpaid leave time.
- 11.10 Either parent adopting a child or the spouse of the person having a child shall be granted a personal leave, not to exceed six (6) months, at the request of the employee. Employees under this provision shall not be eligible for paid sick leave during the period of leave.
- 11.11 Educational leaves of absence may be granted for a maximum of two (2) years.
- 11.12 Neither benefits nor salary increases shall be earned by employees while on a leave of absence without pay. Employees returning to work after leave without pay will be paid at the same salary step held at the time the leave began.
- 11.13 Employees meeting the eligibility requirements of the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may take up to twelve (12) weeks of leave within any twelve (12) month period, for the following reasons, as provided in the FMLA:
 - 1. Birth or adoption of the employee's child.
 - 2. To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious medical condition.

ARTICLE 11 LEAVES OF ABSENCE (Continued)

3. A serious medical condition rendering the employee unable to perform their job.

The twelve weeks may be taken on an intermittent or reduced basis with appropriate medical evidence. If the reason for the intermittent or reduced work basis is the birth or adoption of a child, the approval of the employee's department is also required.

This leave shall be unpaid except as provided for, and under the limitations described in Article 8 (Sick Leave), or Article 9 (Vacation) of this agreement.

"Child" under this section shall be defined as "son or daughter" as defined in the Family & Medical Leave Act.

This definition is: a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self care because of a mental or physical disability.

11.14 Up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave shall be granted to an employee to care for a person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household, who is not the employee's spouse, child or parent, and who has a serious medical condition. This leave will be administered as if it were leave allowed under the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), except when doing so would result in a violation of the Family & Medical Leave Act. FMLA time taken under Article 11.12 will count against time allowed under Article 11.13.

11.15 An employee unable to work because of illness or accident whose paid sick leave is exhausted, shall be granted an unpaid leave of absence for a period not to exceed two (2) years. Employees will return at the same seniority in the salary schedule, will retain promotion rights and will earn vacation schedule seniority for leave under this paragraph. When there are fewer than three (3) months between periods of leave of absence under this section for the same illness or accident, the periods of absence will be added together to determine the length of leave that may not exceed two (2) years, except that this restriction will be reduced from three (3) months to thirty (30) calendar days for employees receiving Workers' Compensation. Existence and extent of illness or disability must be verified by a written statement from an appropriate authority when requested by the department head or designee, or the Human Resources Department.

11.16 An employee who is granted a leave of absence without pay for illness or disability shall be accorded an unqualified right to be reinstated to:

- 1) Their former position in their department if the absence is for sixty (60) calendar days or less, or
- 2) A position in their department in the classification held at the time the leave started, if the absence is longer than sixty (60) calendar days, except in either case when all positions in such class have been abolished.

ARTICLE 12 WAGES

12.1 Wage Schedules – 2025-2027. Employees shall be compensated in accordance with the wage schedules.

- 2025:
 - The salary plan assigned to 21A shall be modified as identified in Addendum A.
 - 3.0% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2025.
 - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2025.
 - Effective January 1, 2025, progression from Step 1 to Step 2 and Step 2 to Step 3 of the assigned salary plan for grades 30, 35, and 55 shall be reduced by 6 (six) months to require 6 (six) months to progress from Step 1 to Step 2 and Step 2 to Step 3.
- 2026:
 - 3.5% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2026.
 - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2026.
 - Effective January 1, 2026, all salary plans containing steps that require three (3) or more years between progression shall reduce the progression to result in no more than two (2) years between steps. No change to steps that require less than two (2) years between progression.
- 2027:
 - 4.5% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2027.
 - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2027.

12.2 When any classification not listed on the wage schedule is established which involves functions substantially similar in their nature, character and scope to those performed in whole or in part by an existing classification which is a part of the bargaining unit as defined in Article 2.1 of this Agreement, the Employer shall designate the rate structure for the position. In the event the Union does not agree that the rate is proper, the Union shall have the right to submit the issue as a grievance at Step 4 of the grievance procedure.

12.3 Effective the first full pay period following 1/1/2022 the Employer will provide a matching contribution directly to the employee's deferred compensation plan provider of a maximum of \$35 per month or \$420.00 annual maximum, per contributing employee, provided the employee makes a minimum contribution of \$10.00 per month. This contribution will be prorated based on regular hours worked. In the event an employee contributes to more than one deferred compensation plan provider offered by the county, the employer contribution shall only be made to a single plan and will default to the plan that the employee contributes a greater amount to. In the event the employee contributes equally to the plan providers, the employer contribution will default to the MSRS administered plan.

12.4 Changes in salary shall be effective on the date of eligibility.

12.5 Professional License Fees and Administrative Allowance - The County will pay the actual annual cost of the Minnesota Attorney License on behalf of each attorney in the bargaining unit. The County will pay an administrative allowance annually to each attorney in the bargaining unit. This amount will be prorated during an Attorney's first calendar year of employment.

Effective the first full pay period following 01/01/2025, the administrative allowance will be increased to one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1,300). Part-time employees will have their administrative allowance pro-

ARTICLE 12 WAGES (Continued)

rated based on their reduced work schedule as measured by the administrative allowance for full-time employees.

12.6 Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

a) Effective January 1, 2022, each Assistant County Attorney shall receive a CLE allowance, to be paid by the County directly to the vendor or on a reimbursement basis, of five hundred dollars (\$500) per year, with a carry-over of unused amounts up to three years, not to exceed one thousand five hundred (\$1,500) dollars.

1. If amounts remain unspent in the individual attorney's accounts at the end of the third year or expiration of the Agreement if less than three years, one hundred percent (100%) of that unspent amount will be placed in the jointly administered CLE fund beginning on January 1, 2028, and may be utilized until the conclusion of the next agreement, up to three years.
2. Unspent forfeit funds at the end of the prospective agreement, up to three years, are returned to the department and shall not be compounded with a future accrual period.
3. In the event the Agreement expires and the parties are in process of negotiating a successor agreement, attorneys may apply for CLE funds from the jointly administered CLE fund.

b) Effective January 1, 2022, a sum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) will be allocated annually and spent solely for educational purposes for Assistant County Attorneys in the bargaining unit. All unspent funds at the end of each year of the Agreement shall be returned to the department. The fund shall be administered by a representative of the County Attorney and a representative of the Assistant County Attorneys, who shall make a recommendation to the County Attorney. The County Attorney will have the final decision as to how the funds are spent, consistent with this agreement.

12.7 Mileage and Parking - Employees will be reimbursed for work related mileage and parking as follows:

- (1) Mileage Rates - The mileage rate shall be the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. If the IRS rate should change during the term of the contract, the contract rate shall change also on the date specified by the IRS.
- (2) Commuting- Depending on their primary worksite designation, employees will either be provided with free parking by the employer or be provided a monthly parking allowance. Parking allowance eligibility is determined in accordance with the Ramsey County Commuting Policy, Administrative Policy Manual, Chapter 2, Section 5, Policy 6. Parking allowance amounts are based on the employee's flexible workplace designation as determined by the employer and described in the Ramsey County Flexible Workplace Policy, Administrative Policy Manual, Chapter 4, Section 1, Policy 14.

Other Parking - All necessary out-of-pocket parking expenses incurred while conducting County business away from the primary work site will be reimbursed in full with a receipt or other appropriate documentation up to a maximum of \$75 per month beginning 1/1/2000. For employees placed by management on special assignment away from the worksite, actual parking expenses will be reimbursed without a monthly limit. Parking while conducting County business at the JFJC will be reimbursed subject to the "other parking" reimbursement limit. However, use of automobile to go to the JFJC will not qualify for "worksite" parking and will not count toward the ten days required to meet the "frequent" driver definition.

ARTICLE 12 WAGES (Continued)

- 12.8 Tuition Reimbursement/Education Allowance: Any employee who, in order to improve their current or future work performance, takes courses which have a direct relationship to their work or a position they can reasonably hope to advance to, may, upon submission of evidence of successful completion of such courses, be refunded the amount of the tuition. An employee desiring to take advantage of this training program must have the course work approved previous to enrollment by their department head. Factors upon which an employee's eligibility depends include the relevance of the course work to the employee's position, the status of the educational institution, and availability of funds, pursuant to the County's Tuition Reimbursement guidelines. Approval will not be granted for a course if a substantial equivalent is offered through the County. Effective 1/1/19, the tuition reimbursement limit shall be limited to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) annually per employee. Employees otherwise eligible for a refund shall not submit claims for tuition reimbursement when such tuition has been or shall be paid by a federal plan of "benefits for veterans and service personnel" or by other sources.

ARTICLE 13 EMPLOYEE FILE

- 13.1 Any subject matter placed in the employee's personnel file shall be served upon the employee in writing. Such matters that could be detrimental to the employee shall be a proper subject for the grievance procedure. All materials in the employee's file shall be available for the employee's inspection.

ARTICLE 14 DISCIPLINE

- 14.1 Prior to disciplining an employee, the employer should make effort to work with the employee in an attempt to actualize appropriate behavior and/or optimal performance by utilizing training, familiarizing of countywide and department policies, or performance improvement plans.
- 14.2 Discipline shall be only for Just Cause, provided in writing including the reason(s) therefore, effective date, generally in the following order, and in the form of:
- Written reprimand
 - Suspension
 - Reduction or demotion
 - Discharge
- 14.3 The Employer shall not administer discipline unless the employee has had an opportunity to have a representative of the Union present.
- 14.4 Investigation. Employees may be afforded union representation when the employee is the subject of an investigation; that right shall be offered to employees upon notice of the investigation. If, in the course of an investigation, it is reasonably believed that disciplinary action may be taken against an employee, the employee will be given an opportunity to have a union representative present before the Employer proceeds to further question the employee regarding this matter. It is the employee's responsibility to secure union representation.
- 14.5 Written Reprimand. Written reprimands will become part of an employee's personnel file. The employee will receive a copy of such reprimand.
- 14.6 Limited Retention. Upon agreement between the union and management, a written reprimand will be removed from an employee's personnel file provided that (1) no further disciplinary action has been taken against the employee for same or similar infractions six (6) months to one (1) year as agreed to from the date of written reprimand and (2) the employee submits a request for removal. Such request to remove a document from a personnel file under this section shall not be placed in the file. Materials removed pursuant to this section shall be provided to the employee. Removal of written reprimands shall be subject to the county's retention records and any applicable federal and state laws.
- 14.7 Loudermill. In the event of a reduction, demotion, suspension, or discharge, the employee shall be offered a Loudermill meeting for an opportunity to hear an explanation of the evidence against them, to present their side of the story, and shall be informed of the right to have a representative, which may be a union representative, at such meeting. The employee shall remain in pay status and disciplinary action shall not become effective during that period when the meeting may occur. However, if the employee was not in pay status at the time of the notice of discharge for other reasons, the requirement to be in pay status shall not apply.

ARTICLE 14 DISCIPLINE (Continued)

- 14.8 Disciplinary Grievance Procedure. An employee receiving discipline may submit the disciplinary action to the grievance procedure beginning at Step 2 pursuant to Article 15 Grievance Procedure, or appeal the disciplinary action through the non-bargaining grievance procedures provided under the Ramsey County Personnel Act and Personnel Rules. An employee may not use more than one of these procedures in appealing a disciplinary action.

ARTICLE 15 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 15.1 Definition of Grievance - A grievance is defined as a dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation or application of the specific terms and conditions of this Agreement. An employee has the right to proceed under non-contractual remedies in the County Personnel Act and Rules and Veterans Preference Act. An employee may not employ both the grievance procedures under this Article and non-contractual remedies for the same grievance.
- 15.2 Organization Representatives - The County will recognize representatives designated by the Union as the representative or steward of the bargaining unit having the duties and responsibilities established by this Article. A list of union representatives or stewards will be provided to Labor Relations in Human Resources at least annually or in the event there are changes in representatives.
- 15.3 Processing of Grievance - It is recognized and accepted by the Union and the County that the processing of grievances as hereinafter provided is limited by the job duties and responsibilities of the employees and shall therefore be accomplished during normal working hours only when consistent with such employees' duties and responsibilities. The aggrieved employee's union representative or steward, if an employee, shall be allowed a reasonable amount of time, without loss in pay, to investigate a grievance and present grievances to the County during normal working hours provided the employee and the employee union steward have notified the designated supervisor.
- 15.4 Grievance Procedure - Grievances shall be processed in the following manner:
- Step 1. The union steward, with or without the employee, shall take up the grievance or dispute with the employee's immediate supervisor within ten (10) work days of the employee's knowledge of its occurrence. The supervisor shall then attempt to adjust the matter and shall respond to the steward within five (5) work days.
- Step 2. If the grievance is not settled in Step 1, it shall be referred in writing by the union representative or steward to the department head or designee within ten (10) work days after the designated supervisor's answer in Step 1. The department head or designee shall discuss the grievance within ten (10) work days with the employee and the Union representative or steward at a time mutually agreeable to the parties. The department head or designee shall give written answer to the Union within ten (10) work days following their meeting.
- Step 3. If the grievance is not settled in Step 2 and the Union desires to appeal, it shall be referred by the Union in writing to the Director of Human Resources or designee within ten (10) work days after the department head or designee's answer in Step 2. A meeting between the Director of Human Resources or designee, the department head or representative, the employee, and the Union shall be held ten (10) work days following the Union request for a Step 3 meeting at a time mutually agreeable to the parties. At this meeting all pertinent facts shall be presented by the Union and Employer. The Director of Human Resources or designee shall give the Employer's written answer to the Union within ten (10) work days following this meeting.
- Step 4. Arbitration - If the grievance is not settled in Step 3, and the Union wishes to refer the grievance to arbitration, the Union shall inform the Employer of its intent to arbitrate within ten (10) work days after the

ARTICLE 15 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Continued)

Union's receipt of the Employer's written answer in Step 3. The Union and Employer will then select an arbitrator either under the alternate striking provisions of Minnesota Statutes 179A.21, Subdivision 2, or by another method mutually agreeable to the Union and the Employer.

- (a) The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the terms and conditions of the contract. The arbitrator shall consider and decide only the specific issue(s) submitted in writing by the County and the employee and the Union, and shall have no authority to make a decision on any other issue not so submitted.
- (b) The arbitrator's decision shall be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days following close of the hearing or the submission of briefs, by the parties, whichever be later, unless the parties agree to an extension. The decision shall be based solely on the arbitrator's interpretation or application of the express terms of this Agreement and to the facts of the grievance presented.
- (c) The fees and expenses for the arbitrator's services and proceedings shall be borne equally by the County and the Union, provided that each party shall be responsible for compensating its own representatives and witnesses. If either party desires a verbatim record of the proceedings, it may cause such a record to be made, providing it pays for the record. If both parties desire a verbatim record of the proceedings the cost shall be shared equally.

- 15.5 Waiver - If a grievance is not presented within the time limits set forth above, it shall be considered "waived". If a grievance is not appealed to the next step within the specified time limit or any agreed extension thereof, it shall be considered settled on the basis of the Employer's last answer. If the Employer does not answer a grievance or an appeal thereof within the specified time limits or any agreed extension, the grievance should be considered settled on the basis of the Union's requested relief. The time limit in each step may be extended by mutual written agreement of the County and the employee Union in each step. The term "days" as used in this Article shall mean the days Monday through Friday inclusive, exclusive of holidays.
- 15.6 Grievance Representative - Employees presenting a grievance under Step 2 shall be represented by a representative of the Union.
- 15.7 Records - All documents, communications and records dealing with a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the involved employee(s).

ARTICLE 16 CLASSIFICATION SENIORITY

- 16.1 Seniority means an employee's length of continuous service by classification and from their date of hire.
- 16.2 Classification Seniority. Classification seniority is defined as the length of continuous service in a specific job classification within the bargaining unit.
- When an employee exercises bumping rights under Article 16, classification seniority in the class to which the employee has bumped shall include seniority in all related or higher bargaining unit classes in which the employee has served.
- 16.3 In the event there is a tie in classification seniority it shall be broken in the following manner:
- (1) Continuous time within the bargaining unit.
 - (2) Continuous time within the County.
 - (3) Position on certification list.
- 16.4 On March 1 the Employer shall establish departmental and bargaining unit seniority lists showing the continuous service of each employee by classification. If there is a grievance relating to seniority or a layoff, additional seniority lists shall be produced. A copy of the seniority lists shall be furnished to the Union when it is posted.
- 16.5 Breaks in Continuous Service. An employee's continuous service record shall be broken by voluntary resignation, discharge for just cause, and retirement.
- 16.6 An employee promoted to a new or higher classification shall have the option of returning to their former classification if such employee fails probation whether the promotion was within the bargaining unit or to another position of employment provided by the Employer. In addition, during the probationary period an employee may return to their former classification upon request with the approval of the departments affected.
- 16.7 Any person employed as an attorney in the classified service in the County Attorney's Office who accepts a promotion to an unclassified position in the County Attorney's Office shall, during the time they are in the unclassified service, accumulate seniority within the bargaining unit on the basis of one (1) month for each full two (2) months of service in the unclassified service. Any such employee hired in the classified service after January 1, 1986, shall accumulate bargaining unit seniority under the provisions of this Article only after they have accumulated two (2) years continuous service as an Assistant County Attorney within the bargaining unit. Employees who have not accumulated two (2) years seniority shall be subject to the provisions of Article 16.5 of this Agreement on promotion.
- 16.8 All positions added to the bargaining unit shall be credited for all previous time worked in a bargaining unit class and one-half (1/2) time for all other service as an Attorney in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

ARTICLE 17 LAYOFF

- 17.1 In the event it becomes necessary to lay off employees for any reason, employees shall be laid off in the inverse order of their seniority within the bargaining unit.
- 17.2 Any temporary or intermittent Assistant County Attorneys, or Special Assistant Attorneys, shall be separated before permanent Assistant County Attorneys are laid off. Additional Legal Interns shall not be hired during the period of Assistant County attorney layoff.
- 17.3 No new employees shall be hired for two (2) years in the classification until all employees on layoff status desiring to return to work have been recalled.
- 17.4 Assistant County Attorneys shall be treated as one classification for the purpose of the application of this Article and Article 15.
- 17.5 Employees promoted outside the bargaining units shall maintain their seniority in the unit for six (6) months.
- 17.6 Employees no longer working for the County will remain eligible for reinstatement from layoff status for a minimum of two years from the date of their layoff. After this initial two-year period, eligibility for reinstatement from layoff shall be extended each year that the employee notifies Human Resources of their continuing interest in reinstatement up to a maximum of ten years. Such notification of continuing interest shall be in writing to the Director of Human Resources and shall be made within 60 days following the anniversary date of the employee's layoff and include a current address and phone number of the employee on layoff. If no notice is received the employee's name will be removed from the recall list and the employee will no longer be eligible for reinstatement. After ten years the laid-off employee's eligibility for reinstatement shall expire.

It is the responsibility of the employee on lay-off to keep a current address and phone number on file in Human Resources any time such contact information changes. Inability to contact the employee caused by the employee's failure to update their address or phone number will result in the employee losing their eligibility for reinstatement.

ARTICLE 18 INSURANCE

18.1 Employee Insurance – The County will provide the following insurance contributions on the 1st of the month following 30 (thirty) days of employment to provisional, probationary and permanent employees who elect insurance coverage: (All contributions shown for medical and dental are monthly and based on full-time employment.)

The following insurance contributions will be maintained for calendar years 2025 and 2026. The Union and the Employer agree to a reopener for the negotiation of premium contributions for the calendar year 2027 if the premium increases are greater than 8.9%.

2025 and 2026:

(1) Medical Insurance:

- a. Single— The total premium for single coverage shall be split 95% County / 5% employee.
- b. Employee plus Spouse— The total premium for employee plus spouse coverage shall be split 82% County / 18% employee.
- c. Employee plus Child(ren)— The total premium for employee plus child(ren) coverage shall be split 82% County / 18% employee.
- d. Family— The total premium for family coverage shall be split 83% County / 17% employee.

Tier	Employer Contribution %	Employee Contribution %
Employee only (Single)	95%	5%
Employee + Spouse	82%	18%
Employee + child(ren)	82%	18%
Family	83%	17%

The above contributions apply to the three insurance plans offered in year 2024. Employer contributions are prorated for part-time employees.

For Health Savings Account-eligible plans, the County shall also contribute for those employee participants as follows:

- a. Single— \$60.00 per month toward a health savings account (H.S.A.)
- b. Employee plus Spouse— \$125.00 per month toward a health savings account (H.S.A.)
- c. Employee plus Child(ren)— \$125.00 per month toward a health savings account (H.S.A.)
- d. Family— \$125.00 per month toward a health savings account (H.S.A.)

ARTICLE 18 INSURANCE (Continued)

Employee only (Single)	\$60/mo. (\$720 annual maximum)
Employee + Spouse	\$125/mo. (\$1,500 annual maximum)
Employee + child(ren)	\$125/mo. (\$1,500 annual maximum)
Family	\$125/mo. (\$1,500 annual maximum)

(2) Dental Insurance:

- a. Single— The total premium for single coverage shall be split 50% County / 50% employee.
- b. Employee plus Spouse— The total premium for employee plus spouse coverage shall be split 50% County / 50% employee.
- c. Employee plus Child(ren)— The total premium for employee plus child(ren) coverage shall be split 50% County / 50% employee.
- d. Family— The total premium for family coverage shall be split 55% County / 45% employee.

The Employer and employee will contribute toward dental insurance premiums as follows:

Tier	Employer Contribution %	Employee contribution %
Employee Only (single)	50%	50%
Employee + Spouse	50%	50%
Employee + Child(ren)	50%	50%
Family	55%	45%

Employer contributions are prorated for part-time employees.

Changes will be effective on January 1 of each year.

(3) Life Insurance:

The County will provide group life insurance equal to one times an employee's annual salary. (minimum \$10,000, maximum \$50,000). Optional life insurance will be employee paid.

(4) Long-Term Disability:

The County will provide a basic long-term disability benefit providing 40% income replacement. Employees may buy an additional 20% income replacement at their own expense for a total of 60%.

(5) Short-Term Disability:

The County will offer an employee paid short-term disability plan to employees effective 1/1/2000 subject to meeting insurance carriers enrollment requirements.

ARTICLE 18 INSURANCE (Continued)

The Union will allow the Employer to offer a pre-tax cafeteria plan that includes Health Care Expense Account-Premium Option, Health Care Reimbursement Account, Vision, and the Dependent Care Reimbursement Account to members of the bargaining unit. Participation is voluntary. The employer will contact the Union representative thirty (30) days or more prior to implementing any substantive changes in the program. If the Union disagrees with the proposed changes, the changes will not be implemented for the members of the bargaining unit unless legally required.

18.2 **Eligibility**

Retiree Insurance: Employees who retire from Ramsey County under provisions of the Public Employment Retirement Act may participate at their option under the health and welfare insurance plans for retired Ramsey County employees. There is no County contribution to dental insurance premiums. County contribution for medical insurance is as follows:

Employees hired before July 1, 1992 – Employees hired before July 1, 1992 must have 10 years (20,800 hours) of County service to be eligible for the full County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums. If an employee retires under PERA disability retirement, the employee must have 5 years (10,400 hours) of County service to be eligible for the full County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums.

Employees hired on or after July 1, 1992 – Employees hired on or after July 1, 1992 must have 20 years (41,600 hours) of County service to receive 50% of the County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums. This amount will increase by 4% for each additional year (2,080 hours) of County service until there is a maximum of 90% of the County contribution after 30 years (62,400 hours).

Current insurance eligible employees hired between 7/1/92 and 12/31/05 – Current insurance eligible employees hired between 7/1/92 and 12/31/05 elected in writing prior to 11/1/06 whether they would maintain their current retiree insurance benefit, *or* opt out of the current retiree benefit and participate in the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) option. **This was a one time, irrevocable decision. Employees who did not make an election in writing prior to 11/1/06, were deemed to have elected to retain their current retiree insurance benefit.** Effective the 1st full pay period following 1/1/07, employees opting out of the current retiree insurance benefit contribute 1% of salary on a per pay period basis to the HCSP.

The County will contribute five hundred twenty five dollars and twenty cents (\$525.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's five (5) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to five hundred thirty dollars and forty cents (\$530.40) per year. The County will contribute six hundred twenty nine dollars and twenty cents (\$629.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis effective the 1st full pay period following the employee's ten (10)

year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to six hundred thirty four dollars and forty cents (\$634.40) per year. The County will contribute seven hundred thirty three dollars and twenty cents (\$733.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's fifteen (15) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first

ARTICLE 18 INSURANCE (Continued)

full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to seven hundred thirty eight dollars and forty cents (\$738.40) per year.

Contributions will be pro-rated based on the number of hours on paid status in a pay period for both full-time and part-time employees. There will be no loss in accrual for full-time employees for up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods for unpaid union leave.

Only insurance-eligible employees are eligible to participate in this HCSP option.

Employees hired on or after 1/1/06 - Employees hired on or after 1/1/06 will not receive any County contribution toward retiree insurance. Employees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree insurance may participate in the County's retiree insurance plan but will be responsible for the entire premium.

All new employees hired on or after 1/1/06 will contribute 1% of salary on a per pay period basis to a Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP).

The County will contribute five hundred twenty five dollars and twenty cents (\$525.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's five (5) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to five hundred thirty dollars and forty cents (\$530.40) per year. The County will contribute six hundred twenty nine dollars and twenty cents (\$629.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis effective the 1st full pay period following the employee's ten (10) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to six hundred thirty four dollars and forty cents (\$634.40) per year. The County will contribute seven hundred thirty three dollars and twenty cents (\$733.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's fifteen (15) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to seven hundred thirty eight dollars and forty cents (\$738.40) per year.

Contributions will be pro-rated based on the number of hours on paid status in a pay period for both full-time and part-time employees. There will be no loss in accrual for full-time employees for up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods for unpaid union leave.

Only insurance-eligible employees are eligible to participate in this HCSP option.

County Contributions

Early Retiree Contributions: For employees retired from Ramsey County who are less than the age of Medicare eligibility (early retirees), the County will make the same contribution to medical insurance premium as for active employees, subject to the years-of-service requirements listed above.

Regular Retiree Contributions: For employees retired from Ramsey County who are eligible for Medicare, or are at or exceed the age of Medicare eligibility (regular retirees):

The County will contribute toward the premium for single medical coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for single coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$55.00 per month; and will contribute toward the premium for family coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for family coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$110.00 per month.

ARTICLE 18 INSURANCE (Continued)

County contributions are subject to the years of service requirements listed above. All changes effective on January 1 of each year.

- 18.3 The County will make a payroll deduction for the premium for the voluntary Group Term Life Insurance Program offered through the Public Employees Retirement Association, for those employees who choose to participate.
- 18.4 County Board Resolution 9-1811. Ramsey County shall defend, save harmless and indemnify each of its officers and employees, whether elective or appointive, against a tort claim or demand, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of each alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of duty, except malfeasance in office or willful or wanton neglect of duty.
- 18.5 Labor/Management Committee on Insurance: This Committee shall have seventeen (17) members as follows: Three members from AFSCME Council 5; one each from other Ramsey County employee unions (Teamsters Local 320, Operating Engineers Local 49, Operating Engineers Local 70, Law Enforcement Labor Services, Ramsey County Deputy Federation, Ramsey County Supervisors Association, and Technical Employees Association); six members from County administration; and one member selected from among non-represented County employees (employee selected shall be submitted to Council 5, which shall have a right of refusal).

Each bargaining unit may select one (1) alternate, who, together with the business agents, may attend meetings and participate in discussions, but will not participate in determining consensus, unless designated by their union to replace an absent member. The County may also select up to six (6) alternates, who may attend meetings and participate in discussions, but will not participate in determining consensus, unless designated by the County to replace an absent member. Attendance at Committee meetings by Committee members and alternates will be without loss of pay.

The committee shall be advisory to the County Board on all insurance matters, and shall operate by consensus. All members of the Committee shall have access to all relevant statistics and information.

- 18.6 The Employer and employee will split the premiums for the Minnesota Paid Family and Medical Leave Program on a 50/50 basis with the employee share payable through payroll deductions pursuant to Minn. Stat. 268B.14.

ARTICLE 19 NON-DISCRIMINATION

19.1 Neither the Union nor the Employer shall discriminate against any employee because of Union membership or non-membership, nor because of age, race, creed, sex, handicap, color, religious belief or political belief.

ARTICLE 20 PROMOTION PROCEDURE FOR ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

20.1 An attorney who becomes eligible for promotion to an Assistant County Attorney shall submit the required promotion application to the County Attorney no sooner than ninety (90) days and no less than sixty (60) days prior to that attorney's promotional eligibility date as determined by the satisfactory completion of the years of experience for promotion.

The County Attorney shall either approve or disapprove the promotion application no later than the attorney's eligibility date.

If the application is approved, the attorney shall be promoted on the eligibility date. It is expected that in the normal course of events, most attorneys will progress from Associate Assistant County Attorney to Assistant County Attorney within the three (3) years' experience time requirement. If the application is disapproved, the County Attorney shall state the reasons for the disapproval. The County Attorney's decision will be a final decision and will be grievable under Step 4 of the provisions of this Agreement.

When an application is rejected for the second time by the County Attorney, a promotional review panel shall be convened. That panel shall consist of three members. One member shall be chosen by the County Attorney, one member chosen by the Assistant County Attorneys' Bargaining Unit, and the third member shall be another Assistant County Attorney mutually chosen by the first two members. If the first two members of the review panel cannot agree on a third member, then each of the two members shall prepare a list of three Assistant County Attorneys. Each of the two panel members shall then select one attorney from the other's list. These two names shall then be placed in a hat by one of the panel members and the other panel member shall draw one name from the hat. The name selected shall be the third panel member.

This panel shall then review the County Attorney's determination that the promotional candidate is not acceptable for promotion. Additionally, the review panel shall schedule an interview with the promotional candidate's unit head to discuss the candidate's performance relative to the promotional criteria. The review panel can consider any relevant evidence that they believe will assist in their promotional determination. Following the panel's review of the candidate, the panel shall prepare a written advisory opinion either concurring or disagreeing with the County Attorney's decision. If a majority of the panel concurs with the County Attorney's decision, that decision shall be final. If a majority of the panel disagrees with the County Attorney's decision, the panel's written opinion shall state the reasons for the disagreement. In that event, the County Attorney shall review the panel's opinion and either promote or not promote the candidate with stated reasons. The County Attorney's decision will be a final decision and will be grievable under Step 4 of the provisions of this Agreement. At said hearing before any arbitrator, the employee may submit any evidence and call witnesses to show that they have met the promotional standards established by the County Attorney. The candidate may again apply one (1) year after the County Attorney's decision. A re-application following a review panel procedure shall go to the County Attorney for determination, and if rejected, shall immediately go to the review panel. If the candidate is promoted following a review panel procedure, the effective date of the promotion shall be the date the application went to the County Attorney just prior to the review panel's determination.

ARTICLE 21 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 21.1 During the term of this Agreement, the Employer shall not contract out or subcontract any public work performed by employees covered by this Agreement which would result in a layoff.
- 21.2 Weather Days or temporary unplanned closures. Under extreme weather conditions or an unplanned emergency event, if the County Manager or designee closes a facility or department and employees are told not to report for work, such days shall be with pay. These additional days with pay shall be granted to employees scheduled to work and those that would have normally reported for work. Payment for such days shall be limited to two (2) days per calendar year.
- 21.3 The Employer agrees to recognize a steward and an alternate as certified by the Union.
- 21.4 Flex-Time - Employees will be able to set their own hours, within the following limits:
- 1) Within each two week pay period, employee must either work or account for through the use of authorized leave, a minimum of eighty (80) hours.
 - 2) Within each two week pay period, employees may, with notice to their direct supervisor but at their own discretion, determine when they actually work.
 - 3) The discretionary authority described in 2) above is limited to flexing time as a result of a need to work additional hours in a regular eight hour day or to adjust starting or ending times based on occasional personal needs.
 - 4) Time worked in excess of eight hours in a day, or on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, may be taken off within the same pay period in increments of up to four hours in a day or more than four hours in a day with supervisory approval.
 - 5) This policy is not a way for employees to establish a regularly or consistently shortened work day, work week or pay period. Any change in an employee's regular eight hour work day, five day week, eighty hour a pay period schedule must be approved by the County Attorney or the County Attorney's designee.

ARTICLE 22 COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND WAIVER OF BARGAINING

- 22.1 This Agreement shall represent the complete Agreement between the Union and the County.
- 22.2 The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make requests and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining, and that the complete understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.
- 22.3 Savings Clause. Should any article, section, or portion thereof, of this Agreement be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall apply only to the specific article, section or portion thereof directly specified in the decision.

ARTICLE 23 TERMINATION

This Agreement shall be effective as of the first day of January 2025, and shall remain in full force and effect until the last day of December 2027. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party shall notify the other in writing by June 1st that it desires to modify this Agreement. In the event that such notice is given, negotiations shall begin not later than July 1st. This Agreement shall remain in full force and be effective during the period of negotiations or until notice of termination of this Agreement is provided to the other party in the manner set forth in the following paragraph.

In the event that either party desires to terminate this Agreement, written notice must be given to the other party not less than ten (10) days prior to the desired termination date. The termination date shall not be before the Anniversary date set forth in the preceding paragraph.

This Agreement was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on January 14, 2025, Board Resolution B2025-019, and signed by the parties as dated below.

WITNESSES

Cassy Fogale

RAMSEY COUNTY

Rafael Ortega
Rafael Ortega (Jun 18, 2025 10:47 CDT)

Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Ling Becker
Ling Becker (Jun 18, 2025 10:24 CDT)

Ramsey County Manager

Approved as to form by:

Elisabeth Brady
Elisabeth Brady (Jun 13, 2025 12:15 CDT)

Assistant County Attorney

Date: 06/13/2025

COUNCIL #5, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Suzanne Kocurek
By: Suzanne Kocurek (May 27, 2025 20:59 CDT)

And: Mario R. Lee
MARIO LEE, L8 PRESIDENT (May 28, 2025 14:03 CDT)

And: Mario R. Lee
MARIO LEE, L8 PRESIDENT (May 28, 2025 14:03 CDT)

And: Mario R. Lee
MARIO LEE, L8 PRESIDENT (May 28, 2025 14:03 CDT)

And: _____

Addendum A

Associate Assistant County Attorney, Salary Plan 21A, Grade 30											
Progression		6 months	6 months	1 year	1 year	1 year	2 year	2 years	2 years	2 years	3 years
Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hourly Rate	37.244525	39.168017	41.091508	43.015000	44.938491	46.861983	48.785474	50.708966	52.632457	54.555949	56.479440
Assistant County Attorney, Salary Plan 21A, Grade 35											
Progression		6 months	6 months	1 year	1 year	1 year	2 year	2 years	2 years	2 years	3 years
Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hourly Rate	44.633059	46.941496	49.249933	51.558369	53.866806	56.175243	58.483680	60.792117	63.10055338	65.40899018	67.717427
Senior County Attorney, Salary Plan 21A, Grade 55											
Progression		6 months	6 months	1 year	1 year	1 year	2 year	2 years	2 years	2 years	3 years
Step	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hourly Rate	50.764432	53.623425	56.482417	59.341410	62.200403	65.059396	67.918390	70.777380	73.636370	76.495370	79.354360

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum is entered into between the County of Ramsey and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 8-County Attorney Unit.

WHEREAS, The parties have entered into a Collective Bargaining Agreement effective 1/1/97; and

WHEREAS, The parties have agreed to allow employees to use vacation in advance of accrual subject to certain restrictions;

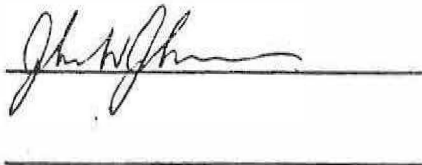
NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. Vacation hours advanced under this Memorandum must be used, they cannot be put into the employee's accrued balance.
2. Vacation hours advanced are subject to the same approval provisions as other vacation hours.
3. Vacation hours advanced to an employee must immediately be repaid from future vacation accruals. If an employee leaves County employment before all hours are repaid, the dollar value of the hours will be deducted from the employee's final check. If this is not possible, the employee will be required to refund the remaining dollar value to the County.
4. An employee may not have more than 40 vacation hours advanced to him/her at any time.
5. Vacation hours advanced do not increase the employee maximum accumulation of vacation. The provisions regarding maximum vacation in Articles 9.5, 9.6 and 9.7 continue to apply.
6. An employee may not donate advanced vacation hours to another employee. An employee may not be required to request that vacation hours be advanced to them, before being eligible to receive donated hours.

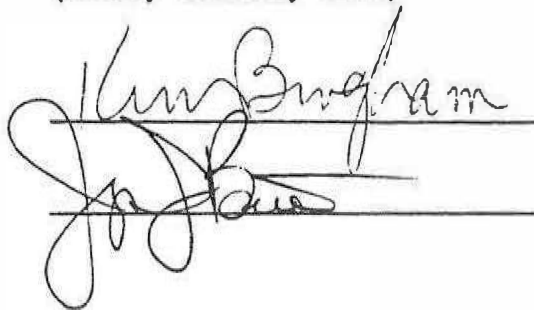
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed this 24 day of February, 1998.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

FOR AFSCME Local 8
(County Attorney Unit)



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John W. Johnson', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is another horizontal line.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kim Bingham', is written over a horizontal line. Below this line is another horizontal line.

Local 8-County Attorney

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum is entered into between the County of Ramsey and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 8-County Attorney Unit.

WHEREAS, The parties have entered into a collective bargaining agreement effective 1/1/97; and

WHEREAS, The parties have addressed the question of ongoing communication between the parties, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT


RESOLVED, The parties agree that a Labor-Management Committee will be established and that there will be established and followed, a schedule of regular, periodic meetings between bargaining unit representatives and the County Attorney, or County Attorney's designee, to address work related issues; AND, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That an initial meeting to establish a schedule of future meetings will be held before May 1, 1998, AND, BE IT FURTHER

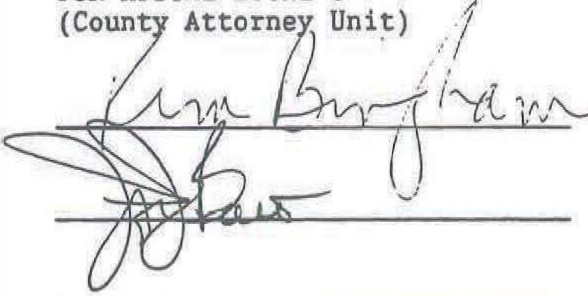
RESOLVED, That the Labor-Management Committee will meet and develop a written policy for excessive overtime cases.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned here caused this Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this _____ day of _____, 1998.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY



FOR AFSCME LOCAL 8
(County Attorney Unit)



Local 8-County Attorney

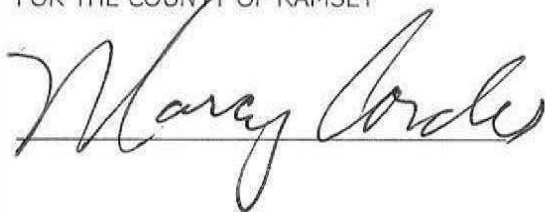
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

This Memorandum is entered into between the County of Ramsey and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 8-County Attorney Unit.

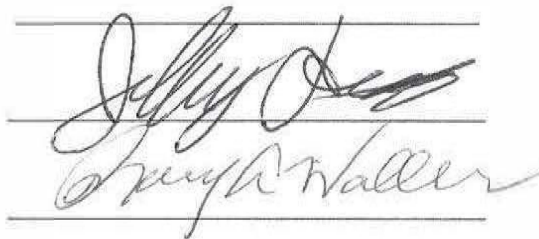
The County Attorney has established a policy regarding legal representation of Assistant County Attorneys named in complaints before the Lawyer's Board of Professional Responsibility for claimed acts or omissions in the practice of law for the employer. This policy, dated March 2012, is accepted by the Local 8 attorneys and is attached and incorporated herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned here caused this Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this 1st day of January, 2012.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY



FOR AFSCME LOCAL 8
(County Attorney Unit)



#8 (County Atty)

Ramsey County Attorney's Office

Policy on Legal Representation for Ethics Complaints

The Ramsey County Attorney recognizes the importance of providing appropriate representation for an Assistant County Attorney who is the subject of an ethics complaint related to work performed in accordance with his or her duties. In order to meet this need, an Assistant County Attorney who is the subject of a complaint filed with the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility that is not summarily dismissed may apply to the Ethics Committee of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office for representation. For purposes of considering such matters, the Ethics Committee will be composed of three managers appointed by the County Attorney, and two Assistant County Attorneys appointed by the County Attorney. The committee will make a recommendation to the County Attorney with respect to whether outside counsel should be retained in connection with the matter. In the event the County Attorney approves the retention of outside counsel, the Director of the Civil Division in consultation with the Assistant County Attorney will recommend counsel to the County Attorney. Any outside counsel retained will be paid by Ramsey County in accordance with a fee agreement approved by the County Attorney.

Updated 3/11/2009

Updated 3/2012

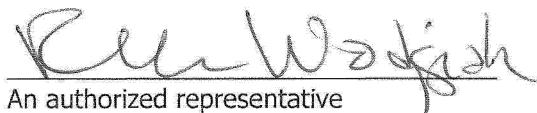
MEMORANDUM of AGREEMENT

Ramsey County
And
AFSCME Council 5, Local 8 (Assistant County Attorneys)

Ramsey County (County) and AFSCME Council 5, Local 8 (Assistant County Attorneys) agree to the following, effective January 1, 2014:

1. An employee that has satisfied the elimination period for either short term or long term disability may, at the employee's option, retain a sick leave bank of up to 80 hours when the employee begins an unpaid medical leave, provided the employee has a bank of paid sick leave hours remaining after satisfying the elimination period.
2. An employee with a paid sick leave bank of 80 hours or less after satisfying the elimination period for either short or long term disability may elect to retain either all or none of their remaining sick leave bank.
3. If the employee elects to retain a sick leave bank after satisfying the elimination period for either short-term or long-term disability, the employee may not use any time from that bank until the employee returns from unpaid medical leave.
4. If the employee does not return from unpaid medical leave, the time retained in the employees sick leave bank will be lost to the employee, such that the employee will receive no compensation for the retained sick leave.
5. In any other circumstances except those described in items 1 through 4 of this Memorandum of Agreement, employees will continue to be required to use all paid sick leave prior to going on an unpaid medical leave of absence.

For the Employer


An authorized representative

10/15/14
Date

For the Bargaining Unit


An authorized representative

10/15/14
Date

#8 (Assistant County Attorneys)

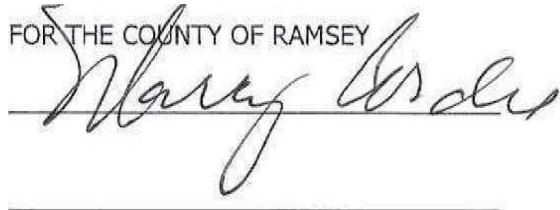
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
PHASED RETIREMENT OPTION**

Ramsey County and AFSCME Council 5, representing AFSCME Local 8 (County Attorney) agree to the following with respect to the Phased Retirement Option Program (PRO):

1. All AFSCME represented employees will be eligible to participate in the PRO Program offered by Ramsey County, as outlined in County Board Resolution 2010-035 (copy attached)
2. AFSCME represented employees shall not be released from employment anytime during the first six (6) calendar months of the initial PRO period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned have caused Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this 20th day of January, 2012

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY



FOR AFSCME Council 5



AFSCME #8 (County Atty)

Resolution

Board of

Ramsey County Commissioners

Presented By: Commissioner Rettman Date: January 19, 2010 No. 2010-035

Attention: Budgeting and Accounting
Gail Blackstone, Human Resources
Jean Gramling, Human Resources

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is supportive of employees preparing themselves for retirement; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County participates in several PERA program offerings; and

WHEREAS, In the 2009 Omnibus Pension Bill, the Minnesota Legislature authorized a Phased Retirement Option (PRO) through the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) which allows PERA Coordinated and Basic members age 62 and over the option to begin receiving a PERA pension without formally resigning employment if they meet the requirements of the PRO; and

WHEREAS, Each covered employer has sole discretion on offering the PRO; and

WHEREAS, There are advantages of participating in the PRO plan for both the County organization and employees; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the requirement of reducing work hours, the following terms and conditions will also apply to Ramsey County PRO agreements for unrepresented employees:

a) Benefits

Employees covered by a PRO Agreement with Ramsey County are: a) not subject to the provisions of the Benefits Policies; b) not eligible to participate in County employee insurance programs or Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP); and, c) not eligible for the County contribution to deferred compensation.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Tony Bennett	X		
Toni Carter	X		
Jim McDonough	X		
Rafael Ortega	X		
Jan Parker	X		
Janice Rettman	X		
Victoria Reinhardt	X		

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

By: 

Bonnie C. Jackelen
Chief Clerk - County Board

Resolution

Board of

Ramsey County Commissioners

Presented By: Commissioner Rettman Date: January 19, 2010 No. 2010-035

Attention: Budgeting and Accounting
Gail Blackstone, Human Resources
Jean Gramling, Human Resources

Page 2 of 2

- =====
- b) Wages
Employees will receive wages in accordance with Ramsey County Personnel Rules.
 - c) Position Complements
Employees in PRO positions will be treated similar to temporary employees and consequently will not be counted against the department's personnel complement. However, departments that utilize the PRO must remain within their authorized personnel budget.
 - d) Personnel Rules
Ramsey County Personnel Rules will apply to employees entering into a PRO agreement.

Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ramsey County Human Resources Director, or their designee, to enter into PRO agreements as appropriate and in accordance with PERA requirements, with County employees for the duration authorized by the Minnesota Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County benefit policies will be amended to indicate that employees covered by a PRO Agreement with Ramsey County are: a) not subject to the provisions of the Benefits Policies; b) not eligible to participate in County employee insurance programs or Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP); and, c) not eligible for the County contribution to deferred compensation, and Be It Further


RESOLVED, The Human Resources Department is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for PRO Agreements with individual bargaining units, as outlined for unrepresented employees.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Tony Bennett	X		
Toni Carter	X		
Jim McDonough	X		
Rafael Ortega	X		
Jan Parker	X		
Janice Rettman	X		
Victoria Reinhardt	X		

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

By:


Bonnie C. Jackelen
Chief Clerk - County Board

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Extended Flexible Leave

It is understood and agreed by all employees covered by this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "bargaining unit employees"), AFSCME Local 8, and the Ramsey County Attorney, the following:

WHEREAS, all bargaining unit employees are exempt from the overtime pay provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and similar state legislation as professional salaried employees of Ramsey County. That nothing contained in this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") shall be construed or interpreted as changing in any way, the status of bargaining unit employees as salaried employees exempt from overtime pay provisions, or in conflict with applicable laws.

WHEREAS, the bargaining unit employees are required to follow all ethical obligations and responsibilities associated with the profession and practice of law and agree to fully serve those obligations and responsibilities related to their status as employees of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office ("RCAO") including but not limited to: fully serving the legal needs of their clients; effectively and efficiently preparing for and observing scheduled court and other tribunal appearances, depositions, witness, client and other meetings; and the timely preparation of legal pleadings and other legal documents. That nothing contained in this MOU shall be construed to waive, reduce or otherwise modify these obligations and responsibilities.

WHEREAS, the normal work schedule for full-time bargaining unit employees consists of working a minimum of eighty (80) hours within a bi-weekly payroll period. Due to the necessities of their job assignment, full-time bargaining unit employees may occasionally need to work hours in excess of the normal work schedule. These excess hours may be required due to the considerable volume, extended duration, or increased complexity of normally-assigned work. In some instances, work volume and demands may also prevent bargaining unit employees from utilizing flex-time described in Article 20.4 of the 2018-2020 Local 8 County Attorneys Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. That this MOU is intended to apply to those circumstances when bargaining unit employees work a minimum of four (4) hours above the minimum work schedule of eighty (80) hours in a bi-weekly payroll period and such work is identified as eligible for accumulating Extended Flexible Leave as described in section 2. Under no circumstances will hours earned or paid according to this MOU be at a rate other than the employee's current regular wage rate at the time of use.
 - a. Part-time employees who work above the minimum eighty-four (84) hours or work 4 or more hours over their regular schedule within a pay period may also be eligible to accumulate Extended Flexible Leave hours pursuant to this agreement. Any additional hours worked shall not result in a change to the employee's part-time status or position.
2. Effective upon signed agreement by the parties, hours deemed eligible for accumulation of Extended Flexible Leave and the amount of Extended Flexible Leave that will be granted are ultimately at the sole discretion of the County Attorney or designee. Such determination shall consider a combination of factors including but not limited to, normally-assigned work which is of considerable volume, extended duration, or increased complexity and requires the employee to work excessive hours.
3. That consistent with the other provisions contained in this MOU and subject to the following conditions, a bargaining unit employee may accumulate up to, but not more than, sixty (60) Extended Flexible Leave hours in a calendar year (defined as January 1 to December 31) for use only as administrative leave. Submission of eligible hours are as follows:
 - a. Bargaining unit employees shall accurately record all hours worked up to and in excess of eighty (80) hours in any given bi-weekly pay period on their timesheets. Hours in excess of eighty (80) must be accurately documented on their timesheets as code 191-Other Time Worked/No Pay. Such record shall assist in determining whether eligibility for Extended Flexible Leave shall apply.
 - b. To the extent practicable, bargaining unit employees are strongly encouraged to discuss the need to accumulate Extended Flexible Leave with their manager in advance of working those hours. Repeated failure to discuss needs may result in forfeiture of potentially earned hours.

- b. The employee shall submit the attached form when requesting accumulation of Extended Flexible Leave hours. The form shall include sufficient details to identify reason or need supporting the request. The form shall be submitted in a timely manner that is no less than at the end of each quarter.
 - c. Eligible work must be performed in the year for which the accumulation is requested.
 - d. RCAO managers will review bargaining unit employee timesheets in conjunction with submitted explanations and requests for accumulated Extended Flexible Leave. Any concerns that RCAO management may have shall be discussed with the employee directly
1. The use of Extended Flexible Leave shall be as follows:
 - a. Accumulation of Extended Flexible Leave will only occur on an annual basis beginning on the 1st day of the month following the effective date of this MOU and continuing thereafter on January 1 of each calendar year of the agreement. No Extended Flexible Leave may be carried over from year to year. The hours must be used or forfeited in totality by December 31 of each calendar year of the agreement. However, hours accumulated in December may be used through the pay period including January 31 of the following year. Unused December accumulated hours will be forfeited following the pay period that included January 31 of each year.
 - b. The use must be accurately documented on the bargaining unit employee timesheet as a time off code to be determined.
 - c. The use of Extended Flexible Leave must be pre-approved by the manager, and shall not be unreasonably denied.
 - d. Extended Flexible Leave accumulations are non-transferable between employees.
2. That any bargaining unit employee who leaves the employ of Ramsey County for any reason, prior to using all of their accrued Extended Flexible Leave, shall not be compensated in cash or any other consideration for the unused hours accumulated at the time of their separation from employment.
3. That decisions made or not made under this MOU on any individual matter involving a bargaining unit employee are grievable only up to step 2 of the grievance procedure and are not arbitrable.
4. Nothing herein shall be construed to either limit or modify Management Rights as defined in Article 5 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
5. That this MOU will expire on December 31, 2024, unless otherwise modified, extended or terminated earlier by agreement between the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed and made effective this _____ day of _____ 20____

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

Cassy Fogale

Labor Relations Manager

County Attorney

FOR AFSCME LOCAL 8
(County Attorney Unit)

Suzanne Kocurek

Suzanne Kocurek (May 27, 2025 20:59 CDT)

AFSCME Council 5 Field Representative

Mario R. Lee

MARIO LEE, L8 PRESIDENT (May 28, 2025 14:03 CDT)

AFSCME Local 8 President

Mario R. Lee

MARIO LEE, L8 PRESIDENT (May 28, 2025 14:03 CDT)

AFSCME Local 8, Steward, Co. Atty Unit

AFSCME Local 8, Steward, Co. Atty Unit

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Facility Support Dog Pilot Program

WHEREAS the Ramsey County Attorneys Office recognizes the value of animal assisted therapy and support in many professions, including the legal system; and

WHEREAS various kinds of animals can make excellent support animals, the unique bond between humans and dogs makes them especially well-suited for work as a support animal in the legal system; and

WHEREAS the Ramsey County Attorney's office seeks to pilot a program utilizing trained support dogs to assist in providing a calm, supportive, non-judgmental environment for victims and witnesses participating in legal proceedings;

NOW THEREFORE, this memorandum of agreement is entered in to between Ramsey County (hereinafter "County") and AFSCME Council 5, Local 8 – General County (hereinafter "Union") to modify or establish certain provisions of the collective bargaining agreement necessary to operate this program.

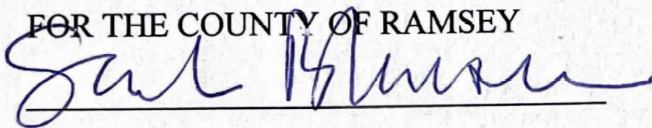
1. The Primary handler and Secondary handlers who will have the dog at their home must attach an umbrella policy to their homeowner's insurance that covers the property owner in the event a claim is made against the dog while it is in the possession of the handler but not on duty. The County will reimburse the handler the cost of the umbrella policy.
2. The Primary handler is responsible for maintenance and ongoing training of the dog. In recognition of this requirement, the following will apply:
 - a. A primary handler's workday, whether full or part-time status, will be comprised of their total scheduled hours of work inclusive of .5 hour for maintenance of the dog when the dog is in their care.
 - b. The primary handler, regardless of full or part-time status, will receive .5 hour compensation (at an overtime rate if full-time) for maintenance of the dog on each day they are not assigned to work, or are on paid time off (vacation, sick, floating holiday, compensatory time off, legal holiday) but have the dog in their possession and are providing maintenance and ongoing training of the dog.
 - c. Should a handler not have the dog on their regular scheduled workday, hours shall remain the same but not include the .5 hour for dog care.
 - d. Primary handlers will be reimbursed up to \$840.00 per year for dog food. The brand of dog food will be determined by the Primary handler and Helping Paws, Inc.
 - e. Primary handlers will be responsible for having the dog groomed on a regular basis. They will be reimbursed up to \$1500.00 per year for grooming and for equipment such as leashes, training aids, chew toys, treats, the dog's working backpack and other items necessary for the routine care of the dog. At the office, the County will provide a crate for the dog, a bed and lint brushes.
 - f. Handlers will be reimbursed for routine and emergency veterinary care as approved.
 - g. Handlers will be reimbursed upon approval by the County for ongoing training and/or recertification expenses for the dog and the handler.

- h. The primary handler will be responsible for ensuring that the dog is licensed as required both by the city where the primary handler lives and the city of St. Paul. Licensing fees will be reimbursed by the County.

3. This agreement will expire on December 31, 2020 unless the pilot project is continued by the County Attorney's Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have caused Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this 10 day of Dec., 2019.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY



FOR AFSCME Council 5, Local 8 - General

