

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega (late), Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: - 0. Also present were David Twa, County Manager, and Gary Davis, Assistant County Attorney, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the February 26, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rettman. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner McDonough moved approval of the Minutes of the February 19, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rettman. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

#### PROCLAMATION

Commissioner McDonough read the proclamation for National Parent Leadership Month, accepted by Roxy Foster, Coordinator for Parent Civic Leadership.

Ms. Foster said she works for Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, which has a program called Circle of Parents, a mutual self-help group for parents. She thanked the County Board for recognizing parents in leadership roles in their homes and communities.

#### PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Application for Exempt Permit – Lawful Gambling – Bingo and Raffles

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-084)

WHEREAS, On February 6, 2008, Ramsey County received an application from the Otter Lake Elementary School Parent/Teachers Association (PTA) requesting a premises permit that would allow the Otter Lake Elementary School PTA to conduct a raffle and bingo on April 11, 2008, at the school; and

WHEREAS, Since the property is located in White Bear Township, Minnesota Statutes, section 349.213 requires the County Board to approve the application by resolution before the Minnesota Gambling Control Board will issue a premises permit or bingo hall license; and

WHEREAS, The Otter Lake Elementary School PTA is requesting that the County take such action; and

WHEREAS, The application process allows the County to:

- 1) Approve the application with no waiting period;
- 2) Approve the application with a 30 day waiting period; or
- 3) Deny the application;

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Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the application for a premises permit from the Otter Lake Elementary School Parent/Teachers Association and approves the application with no waiting period, to allow the PTA to conduct a raffle and bingo on April 11, 2008; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to acknowledge the application on behalf of Ramsey County.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Minnesota DNR/Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-085)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the Federal Recreation Trail Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department desires to submit a grant application for the amount of \$25,000 to help fund continued development of the Elmer L. Andersen Trail within Tony Schmidt Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Recreation Trail Grant Program requires a fifty percent (50%) local match and \$25,000 in matching funds are available from the County Capital Improvement Program under the Tony Schmidt Regional Trail and underpass project funded by the county and the City of Arden Hills; and

WHEREAS, Submission of the grant application must include a resolution by the County Board containing certain provisions required by the DNR supporting the project and continued maintenance and approving the grant application; and

WHEREAS, Submission of this grant application does not commit the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to enter into a grant agreement with the DNR or contract for any work; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program. Such funding, if approved, is to be used to construct a one-half mile paved segment of the Elmer L. Andersen pedestrian and bicycle trail within Tony Schmidt Regional Park, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners recognizes that a fifty percent (50%) local match of grant funding is required, has identified this local match and has the legal authority and financial capability to meet the match requirement and, if constructed, ensures adequate, operation, and maintenance for a period of no less than 20 years; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That submission of this grant application does not commit the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners to enter into a grant agreement or contract for any work described in the Federal Recreation Trail Grant program; and Be It Further

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RESOLVED, That, upon approval of its application by the State, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners may enter into a grant agreement with the State of Minnesota such agreement to be approved by the Board, for the above referenced project, and that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the grant agreement.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly report of contracts and final payments and grant submissions that were approved during the month of January 2008

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-086)

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 3.40.37 authorizes the County Manager to approve contracts, within certain limits; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.50a requires a monthly report on all contracts and final payments approved by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.39d requires the County Manager to report grant submissions, amendments, renewals, and acceptances along with the monthly contract report; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report of Contracts and Final Payments and Grants for the month of January 2008.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Ramsey County Care Center – Request for Proposals for Clinical and Financial Computer System

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the Information Services (IS) Department would be involved with this computer system.

David Twa, County Manager, said this is a separate stand-alone system.

Patricia Reller, Administrator, Ramsey County Care Center, said she has worked with IS to review the RFP. Karen Kushner, Assistance County Attorney, has also reviewed the documents.

Commissioner Rettman said even though this is a stand-alone system, it should be integrated.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-087)

WHEREAS, The clinical and financial computer system at the Ramsey County Care Center is 20 years old, DOS based and very labor intensive; and

WHEREAS, Overall, it is inadequate to meet resident care and regulatory needs; and

WHEREAS, The new system will include complete clinical and financial records for the residents; the clinical component will include patient notes of doctors and nurses, standing orders, medication records, scheduling, care plans, admissions, billing and discharge records, and census changes. In addition, the system will provide automated checklists on due dates for assessments, daily assignments triggered by tasks or records not completed, quality management tools and reports,

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pre-admission screening documents, and additional monitoring tools. Providers will have point of care access to make immediate entry into the patient's records; and

WHEREAS, These changes will reduce time spent on paperwork, resulting in more direct care to the residents, and will permit improved cost capturing, billing and reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, There is funding available from the rate increase received from the State of Minnesota under the Moratorium Exception project to cover the cost of developing a new clinical and financial computer system; and

WHEREAS, The Request for Proposals for the project will be issued in March; and

WHEREAS, The recommended vendor will be presented to the Board for approval in April or May; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a vendor to provide a new clinical and financial computer system for the Ramsey County Care Center.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – License Agreement for Pictometry Oblique Aerial Photography Capture System

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman said she is pleased this came before the Board before it is due, and cited the Executive Summary: "It is our hope to collect payments from some other users to help defray the costs"; and yet, the County Manager's Comments state: "funding the license costs from Property Records and Revenue operation budget". This plan will come to the Board in the spring to talk about this long-term. The funding is coming from Property Records and Revenue and there is \$10,000 coming in from GIS, plus there is a dispatching agreement. If mainly police and emergency dispatch use it, this could be part of that agreement. She would like to have the report before this automatically comes out of the technology budget.

David Twa, County Manager, said that report will come forward before that occurs. As this relates to dispatching, this could be built into those costs, but when this agreement was set up, those costs were fixed for the first two years; starting in the third year there would be averaging and start rolling that in. To get funding out of the dispatch agreement, is something that would occur in the future, and why as cited in the narrative, staff would look for funding from the other entities, but the initial funding would have to come out of Property Records and Revenue.

Commissioner Rettman said if a funding source has already been identified, people may not choose to participate in helping with the funding.

Mr. Twa said that is correct, but it is also a matter of timing, and in order to get this going, it needs to move forward.

Commissioner Reinhardt cited lines 31-34 in the Draft Resolution, and said it could be clearly stated in that Resolved clause that it is for the "initial two-year period". It makes it clear that the up-front funding is for the initial two-year period only.

Commissioner Rettman asked about the GIS group providing \$10,000.

Commissioner Reinhardt said if they do, it would fit within that Resolved clause. That is the intent, as she understood from Mr. Twa's comments. If it turns out not just for the first two-year period, this would have to come back to the County Board anyway.

Mr. Twa said that is correct.

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The amended language suggested by Commissioner Reinhardt was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call on the amended resolution: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-088)

WHEREAS, Pictometric images are orthogonal and oblique digital images of portions of the earth using Pictometry's hardware and software capture system; and

WHEREAS, These images can be integrated with the County's GIS land records maps to provide very accurate detailed photography of all properties in the county; and

WHEREAS, This product affords views of buildings from all sides, in a high-resolution format that affords an in-office capability not found in any other product; and

WHEREAS, This product was originally licensed by the City of St Paul's dispatch center in 2006 for use by all Ramsey County units of government, and is presently being used by the St. Paul Police, St. Paul GIS, Ramsey County Emergency Dispatch, the Ramsey County GIS User Group, and Property Records and Revenue's Assessor's Office; and

WHEREAS, The federal grant funds utilized in 2006 were one-time funds, and Ramsey County will be required to separately license with Pictometry to utilize the system after the original license expires on May 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The proposed License Agreement is for a two-year period and permits the County to share the data with other Ramsey County public entities; and

WHEREAS, The cost is to not exceed \$36,000 per year for the two-year period, which is a metro grant pricing because of the number of metro entities also licensing the system; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the License Agreement with Pictometry International Corp., 100 Town Centre Drive, Suite A, Rochester, NY 14623, of Oblique Aerial Photography for the initial two-year period from June 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$36,000 annually, with a perpetual license thereafter; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the License Agreement with Pictometry International Corp; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary budget adjustments.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Ratification of the maintenance and support agreement between the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative ("MCCC") and ACS State & Local Solutions, Inc. ("ACS")

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

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Commissioner Rettman said action today is only on the contract. Other things discussed in the Board Workshop are not addressed here, but will come to the Board at some future date. She wanted the Board minutes to reflect that there are other issues and concerns that were expressed at the Workshop. This only takes care of the insurance

Commissioner Reinhardt said minutes are not kept from Board Workshops. Adding comments into today's minutes makes it official; there are a multitude of other issues, and the action today is strictly approving the safety net.

Commissioner Bennett, on a different avenue said, the Board continues to state the problems with the tax system in Minnesota. This is a prime example of something costing the County money. He suggested sending a letter to both Senate and House Tax Chairs, and the Governor's Office, to say that because our tax system is so complex, this is going to cost additional money and time – take advantage of the fact that this is what is causing some of our problems.

Chair Parker said there appeared to be consensus that sending a letter did not require a motion.

Commissioner Rettman asked County Manager David Twa when other related issues would come to the County Board.

Mr. Twa said a date has not yet been scheduled. A lot depends on what happens as it relates to the Minnesota County Computer Cooperative (MCCC) and Manatron, as to what is going on throughout the State. It will be brought to the Board as soon as possible.

Commissioner McDonough asked if exploration had begun for getting back any money if the County chooses not to participate any further.

Mr. Twa said that issue has been raised and the process has begun, but it will be awhile.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-089)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota County Computer Cooperative ("MCCC") was created as a joint powers organization in 1978 to provide services and software to help reduce data processing costs to member counties; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is currently a member of the MCCC and utilizes the MCCC property tax system that was developed and supported by ACS State & Local Solutions, Inc. ("ACS"); and

WHEREAS, The MCCC contract with ACS for use of the tax system expires on December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The County did on December 13, 2005 ratify a contract between MCCC and Manatron, Inc. to develop and implement a new property tax system; and

WHEREAS, Delays in the development and implementation of the Manatron property tax system due to the complexities of the Minnesota tax system and staff turnover will result in implementation of the new system in Ramsey County significantly later than the expiration date of the current ACS contract; and

WHEREAS, The County wishes to ensure the continuity of property tax operations at the lowest available pricing; Now, Therefore, Be It

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RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Ratification Statement regarding the maintenance and support agreement between the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative, 100 Empire Drive, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55103, and ACS State & Local Solutions, 2901 Third Street South, Waite Park, MN 56387, for a three-year contract for the current property tax system; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair of the County Board and the Chief Clerk to execute the Ratification Statement.

COUNTY MANAGER – Proposed 2008 State Legislative Proposal – Support Item – Federal Highway Set-Aside Dollars for Transportation Construction Job Training

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Rettman said on or about October 1, 2006, there was a gathering at St. Pascal's of interested residents, Isaiah, union leaders, and several elected officials. At that time, Ramsey County had already passed this in its legislative package. She asked that language be added to the background information that this item is a reaffirmation of action taken last year and reaffirms Ramsey County's commitment and strong support for federal highway set-aside dollars to be used for transportation construction job training. Ramsey County had gone on record about this before it was fashionable, and aggressively pursued this since 2006.

Commissioner Carter said that is why it appears on the Board Agenda and not through the Legislative Committee. It has been the Board's practice that new legislative items would come through that Committee.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-090)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has reviewed a number of proposals and initiatives for inclusion as support items in its 2008 State legislative package; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes inclusion of the following support item in its 2008 State legislative package:

- Federal Highway Set-Aside Dollars for Transportation Construction Job Training

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board further authorizes its representatives to work with members of the Legislature and other interested parties to seek the necessary legislation for this proposal.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Second Reading of the Proposed 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-091)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter states that every proposed Ordinance shall receive two readings: first, at the time it is presented, and second, at the time of the Public Hearing; and

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WHEREAS, The full reading of the proposed Ordinance may be waived if a copy of the proposed Ordinance is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction; and

WHEREAS, The first reading of the proposed 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance was waived on February 5, 2008, when the item was first presented; and

WHEREAS, The second reading of the proposed Ordinance may also be waived because the County Board received a full copy of the Ordinance prior to its introduction; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby waives the second reading of the proposed 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Public Hearing on the proposed 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Chair Parker opened the Public Hearing to obtain public comments on the proposed 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance, and called three times for testimony. Hearing no requests to address the Board, Chair Parker declared the Public Hearing closed. Approval of the Ordinance will appear on the March 11, 2008 Board Agenda.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner McDonough – Presentation on Sexual Violence Prevention by Patty Wetterling and Cordelia Anderson

Commissioner McDonough said he sat in on a larger presentation at the 2007 NACo Conference, given by Cordelia Anderson, Chair, National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation. That presentation impressed him greatly. He met with Ms. Anderson after her presentation and asked where he could go with that information. Back in Minnesota, he attended several meetings, about what is being done in Ramsey County. He also participated in a two-day retreat sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health, where Patty Wetterling, Director, Sexual Violence Prevention Program, is working on a State plan.

It seemed appropriate with the National and State plans moving forward, to ask how Ramsey County as a local government, is supporting and recognizing what is being done, and to make a concerted effort to make changes to maximize the opportunity to have an impact in this area. Throughout that process, Commissioner McDonough felt it was important to bring Ms. Wetterling and Ms. Anderson to the Board to discuss what is going on at State and local levels. At the Workshop this afternoon, there would be more opportunity to hear from the Departments and to discuss how to strengthen Ramsey County's role, and to take leadership at the local level in Minnesota, to help establish and be supportive of the State and National plans about what is going on with kids and women in our society.

Ms. Wetterling thanked the County Board for inviting her and Ms. Anderson to the meeting. She thanked Commissioner McDonough for really listening to Ms. Anderson at the NACo Conference, and for initiating the first county commissioners' response in Minnesota for this call to action. She grew up in St. Paul, attended Randolph Heights, St. Paul Central, and was in the first class to go all the way through Highland Park Senior High.

Ms. Wetterling said it doesn't surprise her that Ramsey County would respond with outrage to the problem of sexual violence; we are a caring community. Ramsey County has been actively seeking solutions for many years. This is an opportunity to make a statement about the kind of community we live in, and how we can make it better.

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In July she began working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as Director of Sexual Violence Prevention, located in the Golden Rule Building. Sexual violence is more than a public safety issue or criminal justice concern; it affects all parts of our community, and is a public health issue. Minnesota receives around \$823,000 annually from the Center for Disease Control to try to stop sexual violence. Public Health looks at the broader picture -- the environment, to define the costs and causes, sets goals and strategies for action, and looks at policies that are proven plans that are effective. By looking at the issue broadly, we can immunize our community against sexual violence, just as we immunize against other diseases. As with other public health issues, such as obesity and tobacco, the causes of sexual violence are varied and complex, and so are the solutions. Just as we clean up the air for pollutants, we can clean up the sexually toxic environment, and we must.

The Minnesota Department of Health has built coalitions and established some great partnerships to bring people together, to work from individual skill building to community education to supporting health care providers and changing organizational practices, so that everyone shares the goal of stopping sexual violence.

The flyer *Imagine ...our lives without sexual violence or exploitation*, was distributed to the Commissioners. MDH has released the costs in the sexual violence report. In 2005, more than 61,000 Minnesota residents were sexually assaulted. That number only reflects the sexual assaults that were reported to police. Most studies, like the FBI, report that less than 10% are ever reported, and we know this is a huge problem. More than 77,000 sexual assaults occurred in police reports in 2005. In 2006, the State spent \$230.5 million on people known to have perpetrated sexual violence, and \$90.5 million on those who were assaulted. Sexual violence costs 3.3 times as much as alcohol related impaired driving in Minnesota. Policy recommendations aimed at preventing sexual violence before it occurs should be vigorously pursued, adopted and sustained.

Ms. Wetterling said she has the honor of serving on the Board of Directors for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with Cordelia Anderson. Ms. Anderson has launched a national initiative to pull together over 30 agencies across the nation to develop a national plan to stop sexual exploitation of children. On top of that, they are close to having a State plan to stop sexual violence, and with the help from Ramsey County could have a county plan that could be shared and replicated across all 87 counties in Minnesota, and will begin to see results in reducing sexual violence and exploitation. No one can do it alone, and every one of us can make a difference. Imagine what we can do when we work together to stop sexual violence.

Ms. Wetterling introduced Ms. Anderson who presented the powerful presentation that Commissioner McDonough heard.

Ms. Anderson thanked the Board for its leadership. With her work here, she has had the opportunity to work with the Ramsey County programs, training and services for victims and for prevention, listed in her PowerPoint presentation.

She is very excited about the national effort. That plan is not signed off on yet, and it is not something that has been in existence before, to frame prevention in such a primary way. NACo's commitment to child sexual exploitation is one of their top five goals, and is a huge statement, and one they are trying to work with counties to make come alive. When she made her presentation at NACo, she did not know there was a Ramsey County Commissioner in the audience when citing the work of Ramsey County and Fulton County, Atlanta, Georgia, for their leadership.

The reality is we can't just treat, prosecute, and educate our way out of this. It is both a public health and a public safety problem. That requires more than what any individual can do. It requires fundamental social change and policy actions to counter the norms and to stop feeding the demand. Why is there such a demand?

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On countering normalization, looking at this issue and children is only one part of the spectrum of sexual violence. Facing what is happening with our children is part of what is primary. Countering a sexually toxic society – any time an incident as frequent as sexual exploitation and violence is, any time mass media is filled with pornified images that pairs sex with violence, when the dominant message sells sex, void of any meaning or caring relationships, when gender socialization continues to be destructive, and then when adults are hesitant to talk openly and honestly about love or caring and healthy relationships, we have a sexually toxic society. Trauma specialist Dr. John Briere says, “Toxic decisions seem rational in a toxic environments.” Dr. Sharon Cooper, a Developmental and Forensic Pediatrician says, when you think about exploitation, if that term is not as familiar to you as abuse, think about these five things: commercial sexual exploitation; prostitution of children; documentation of sex crimes (child pornography); technology facilitated sex crimes; and sex tours and sex trafficking here in the United States as well as internationally.

The real question is why is there so much demand. Primarily, males are the perpetrators of any child or underage person, so how do we end it? One child pornography site in Texas revealed 70,000 men’s names, each of whom paid \$29.95 a month, to view images of children being sexually abused. They used credit cards. There is action to stop that possibility, but why is there so much interest, what is normalization, and why does it matter? When things that used to be understood as deviant and harmful become an accepted part of our culture, “no big deal”, people are indoctrinated; the barriers are removed, and it starts to be viewed as beneficial.

Women’s bodies and sex used to sell things is nothing new, but the volume of sex and exploitive use and commoditization of sex to sell to, and to sell younger and younger children, is newer. Studies are beginning to show that the way we are teaching our children, by social norms, tells them their worth, and to become exploiters.

The reasons for concern are: children’s brains are under development into their early twenties – impulse control and judgment are all part of that; children are physically developing at a younger age; and adults are confused about what is normal, healthy, harmful, and it is difficult for adults to talk about these issues. Children need supportive families, and families need support to raise them. They need quality information. What do they get – they are taught that sex and human beings are commodities to be bought and sold -- all through technology.

Pornography is a \$50 billion worldwide business, \$12 billion in the United States – legal adult porn is the content that feeds the idea that children are viable objects for sexual fantasy by normal adults. On average, boys see their first porn at age 11. Sexual desire is normal, but the concern is that this is hijacking that desire. A book by Pamela Paul examines how to pornify cultures, transforming our lives, our relationships, and our families. Child porn is illegal. It is a \$5 billion a year industry, but non-commercial is the biggest thing. With web cams and cell phones, people are making porn themselves, often using their own children and children entrusted to them. Victims are getting younger. The CyberTipline at the national center gets 2,000 reports a week; 90% are about child porn. Without counter normalization, adults have an unhealthy sense of relationships and sexuality. Paired with that they are hyper-sexualized through mainstream media.

This crosses so many industries that teach children how to look, how to act, with interactive games to allow for more practice. It is the messages in the images in all the areas that feed the excuses and take away the barriers for those willing to exploit a child as well as shape how children see themselves. Industry’s role is key.

“Bling” is in our normal language – “ho” and “pimp” have become normalized, something to be desired and positive. Three hundred studies show that it is not the sexual language that is the problem; it is the degrading language that plays into risky behaviors. Results show that such

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sexualized images, lyrics, fashion, role models, etc., made girls think of and treat their own bodies as sexual objects (things for others to use), and this has a negative impact on girls' mental health. It is no better for boys, who are taught to be users, takers, and pornography makers. When there is not a clear counter message from adults, children learn to adopt the media's social norms as their own.

Action, prevention, strategic thinking, keeps this from appearing overwhelming. Major social change is possible, i.e., smoking, car seats, and lead paint. We have to name the harm, work across the spectrum. Most of the prevention focuses on what the individual needs to know and do, and work up to policy and organizational practices and stronger, more creative coalitions. This is an opportunity for Ramsey County to take definitive action. Ramsey County is already doing so much, so this would be building on that strength. This would ensure an environment for children to grow and develop in healthy ways with the supports needed for caring connections and healthy relationships, and to have healthy relationships free from exploitation and violence.

Ramsey County would be a place where children, youth and adults would not be perceived or used as sexual commodities, where we have the services, when we can't stop the victimization, adults are clear about what is healthy and not, industries don't expect or feel entitled to profit from the sexual exploitation and violence of others, and workplaces committed to the policies from technology. It is an opportunity to end demand so that commercial gain is eradicated.

The national plan statement is that prevention will be in the front of people's minds and hearts in such a powerful way that the normalization of such exploitation and violence for individuals or for commercial gain, becomes socially, economically, politically, and spiritually unacceptable in this country and in this county. NACo's bi-line is: "The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest."

Ms. Anderson said the administrators at NACo are very excited about what is being done in Ramsey County, and this will be brought back to the task force because of the opportunity to build on what is already going on here.

Ms. Wetterling said in 1989 when Jacob (her son) was abducted, she learned that the motive behind kidnapping is for sexual purposes. It is really hard to listen to what Ms. Anderson has shared. It has been her dream ever since, that we could get ahead of this problem, and stop it from ever happening again – we are closer than ever. There is good response from law enforcement to abductions, for example, with the Amber Plan at about 20/20 in safe recoveries. There is training available for law enforcement. Minnesota has led in many creative initiatives such as the non-compliance website for a better handle of those that have been caught doing sexual harm, and it will hopefully prevent further victimization. We can't wait for another victim. We can and must continue to go upstream and look at the root of the problem and stop this from happening in the first place. She is proud that this is beginning here in Ramsey County. She thanked the Commissioners for their interest.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Wetterling, Ms. Anderson, and Commissioner McDonough for suggesting Ramsey County focus on this issue. Addressing the listening audience, she said this is such an important issue that the County Manager requested all the County's leadership to attend this presentation today. The County is serious about this. This has and will always be a priority for the County. She is proud of the efforts so far, but it is important it be carried further.

Commissioner McDonough said the piece that hit hard for him from Ms. Anderson's presentation, is that being overwhelmed, doesn't create change. As a Commissioner, he has reflected on what he can do in Ramsey County to support this national initiative in the exploitation of kids. And, how it relates in Minnesota and Ramsey County in the damages that occur to our kids and community coming into our systems in multiple ways, ensuring that when they do come in, that we have the opportunity to deal with that and make a difference in people's lives.

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On a personal level, that presentation made him reflect about how he participates in the normalization that is occurring in society, without even being aware of it. As a male in society, what role does he have; how much has he been complacent about what occurs around him, his family, the example he might set for his kids, and the things he can do in his public position as a County Commissioner, as well -- what can he do to help make changes so that we can make a difference and turn this around and end it. That wraps around where this started one year ago when he sat in on the presentation at NACo.

Commissioner McDonough said he has spoken with Commissioner Nancy Boxill, Fulton County, Atlanta, Georgia, who has been doing a tremendous amount of work in this area. It was inspiring to have dialogue with her about the leadership she has taken there, and what is going on in that county. He thanked Ms. Wetterling and Ms. Anderson for their presentations. He also thanked the staff in the audience today.

He participated in the two-day retreat put on by Ms. Wetterling to help bring stakeholders, providers, and other interested individuals together to begin the process for how the State comes up with this plan. The piece that connected with him was all the work that everybody who knows this needs to be done. Champions and leaders are needed, where public policy is set on things that make changes, and is one of the key pieces. There are 5-6 areas to focus in; one is leadership, which comes from the communities and policy-makers, to set the example and lead the way for other counties to follow.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she appreciated the presentation made today, which is one more step for making a long-term solution. This is something that is happening around us. Often times we think this type of thing is happening someplace else, not here. When the first statistics came in from ACE (All Children Excel), it was found that 10% of the ACE children brought in to the program, were because of sexual offenses, which is more alarming because the age of ACE children is 6-9. This is a huge issue, and one where we can make change happen, but it must be done with loud voices in getting the protection for our children.

Chair Parker said the Board would be attending a Workshop later today to discuss more specifically what Ramsey County has done so far, and what more can be done. Commissioner McDonough is in a great position on this as president-elect of the Association of Minnesota Counties, to help roll this out statewide.

Commissioner McDonough said it will be shown that Ramsey County is doing some great things already; we have great leadership in Susan Gaertner, County Attorney, who has put a group together to look at the work being done in the areas of providing child care. There are also gaps and disconnects about what is happening in different areas in our community, and there will be a role there for Ramsey County in helping to connect, to expand on what we're doing, and to work in a more unified way.

Commissioner Rettman said Marion Holly, a former employee in the Budgeting and Accounting Office, led the way in the area of SOS services. It is that personal commitment in the suburban area and in the City of St. Paul in services to help parents that will help stem some of the problems. That same commitment will be needed for this initiative. She appreciated Commissioner McDonough's focus on this commitment.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, recognized the work of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and all the elected officials who have worked on the transportation bill, effective today. The process for the joint powers agreement can begin. Throughout the discussion Commissioner Reinhardt and Commissioner McDonough made sure the legislators knew of Ramsey County's interest in the bill.

*(Continued)*

Chair Parker said credit should also go to Commissioner Ortega and Commissioner McDonough who, a few years ago, spent a lot of time dealing with all the statewide negotiations. There has been a lot of effort from everyone to get this passed, especially from Terry Speiker and Nick Riley.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this is real now. The gas tax is dedicated to roads and bridges. The other portion of the bill regarding transit is taking it off property taxes, and that had not been understood until it was stated explicitly. She had not heard any legislators say we didn't have to fund this – it was about how it was funded. The only taxpayers paying for the Hiawatha Corridor are Hennepin County residents. This bill will have a positive impact on property taxes, what is paid, and it is fair. Clearly, there are more than Hennepin County residents using Hiawatha Corridor; there will be more than Ramsey County residents using Central Corridor; and that was what this was about – how to pay for it in a fair and equitable manner, and to get the money into roads and bridges that have been sorely lacking for a number of years. People need to understand why this was so important.

Commissioner Rettman said in 2009 something would occur that states that no county will pay for light rail operations. She spoke with Nick Riley, and met with the County Manager, because she wanted to understand that correctly. That would defease the Memorandum of Understanding; that language survived. The ongoing amount would be tantamount to devastating Ramsey County.

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said that language did survive among other things that helped Ramsey County immediately. The Lafayette and Cayuga bridges are part of the 13 bridges that will be reconstructed over the next couple years -- \$350 million will be bonded over the next two years to take care of them – a great help for Ramsey County.

Ms. Speiker said this bill was designed and has the funding in it to deal with questionable bridges around the State. It moves some of the costs off the property taxes, especially in some of the rural counties where they have been trying to figure out how to finance things, and should relieve some of that stress. It will also take some of our requests out of the future bonding bill so Ramsey County won't have to take up so much of what has been in the bonding bill to try to finance these projects. There are a lot of positive spin-offs.

Commissioner McDonough said this bill does so much in different ways. When people are reading the press, they don't get to see some of the in-depth pieces. Negotiating the formula change and the gas tax had fallen on Commissioner Ortega's shoulders. This was never an out-state metro versus rural issue, but the inequities of the formula was dramatic as far as how many dollars left our community and didn't get reinvested. That is a key in this gas tax – that formula has changed where more of those dollars will stay in our community to help accelerate that investment.

Commissioner Bennett said that is a step in the right direction, but he remains somewhat pessimistic and optimistic at the same time. He was disappointed in the St. Paul newspaper in how they laid out the costs for cars and gas mileage. It is simple. If you buy 1,000 gallons of gas, for an average of 20 miles to the gallon, it would cost an additional \$50 on the gas tax. He is amazed at the media, and in particular, talk show hosts, that do not know that the gas tax is dedicated to road use only – it is a maintenance cost. To those people who think that light rail and transit only have overhead costs – somebody has to plow the highways, provide for the highway patrol, patch the holes. Everyone needs to be careful not to over-sell this bill. This bill will not do everything we may want it to do, which is to put our highways and transit systems in a first-class operation. This is about less than half to do that effort. People were mislead when the MVED tax was passed a couple years ago. He is glad that the Lafayette and Cayuga bridges will be replaced, but what about some of the other bridges, potholes? This bill is a good step forward, but it will not solve all the problems. He asked how much the gas tax would rise in April?

Mr. Riley said it would be raised \$0.02, then \$0.03 on October 1.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Bennett said the oil companies raised the cost \$0.16 in the last ten days.

Mr. Riley said it would be raised \$0.035 as they implement the bonding for the bridges, phased in over time to pay the cost of the bond. The County Board will need to act soon on implementing the sales tax to get the money in the bank, and get the joint powers going. Regional Rail will be considering that. A 90-day period has to transpire before they can implement that tax so action has to be taken by the metro counties soon. The deadline is July 1, with the final deadline on October 1.

Commissioner Bennett asked for a more detailed explanation for how that sales tax would work; would each county keep what they raise, or would it go into a pool to be administered. If one county doesn't do something, how would it affect the other counties?

Mr. Riley said at least four counties in the metro area have to implement the sales tax; then it is implemented for all. It would go into one fund. The Chair of the Met Council is on that board, and there is a weighted vote. Some counties have higher populations that bring in more funding on the sales tax. There are other provisions in the bill.

Ms. Speiker said there is a provision in the bill for what are called minimum contribution counties -- those where less than 3% of the amount is raised, and they are assured a minimum amount of grant money back.

Commissioner Bennett asked if there are limitations on what the money can be used for.

Ms. Speiker said it is capital improvements, capital costs for park and ride facilities – transit. A group may also award up to 1.25% annually for planning, studies, design, construction, maintenance and operation of pedestrian programs, and bicycle programs and pathways.

Commissioner Bennett said we need to get a better handle on how it is distributed. The fact that this is governed by some federal money, there are certain things we couldn't use it for as far as Central Corridor.

Ms. Speiker said she, along with Tim Mayasich, Steve Morris, Nick Riley and staff from Hennepin County and the Met Council will meet today or tomorrow to talk about the parameters of the funding. There has been some analysis done about what the bill might provide for us, and more analysis will be done. The Metro Transitways Development Board has asked staff to look at what a joint powers agreement would look like; some of that work was done last year in preparation for the bill. Staff are working to be prepared and move forward on the material back to the County Board.

Mr. Riley said the non-controversial tax bill, now considered controversial, is being heard now in the Senate, and still contains the Ramsey County Environmental Response Fund language. The bonding bills will roll out this week. The Health Care bill will be heard soon. The big deal this week is the budget forecast on Friday, estimated to be about a \$1 billion shortfall.

Commissioner Bennett said the shortfall would be a projection that we will be short of the anticipated money to be brought in over the next two years. The average person thinks the State is in debt that much money.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she attended her first Electronic Real Estate Task Force meeting through the Association of Minnesota Counties. A recommendation coming out of that task force is for electronic recording in the industry. The legislation will allow for full electronic recording of real estate documents, and will encourage a minimal standard for electronic recording. One hang-up was getting a real person's signature on a document. Level two of this legislation is to have that real person sign the document and send the image in, with verification to follow. Industry, government and others are behind this legislation. Carver County and others are going forward for the full implementation of recording of real estate documents.

Commissioner Rettman said there has always been the concern about the use of a social security number on the documents.

Commissioner Reinhardt said private data has been one of the biggest issues. It is part of the legislation and what each of the counties is trying to bring forward. This has been grappled with and realistic solutions are being brought forward.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Rettman said she continues to mention this because of personal data theft, and to make sure the County protects the information.

Mr. Riley said a bill was introduced to eliminate the sales tax on construction and trains for Central Corridor, resulting in approximately a \$16 million savings to the whole Central Corridor system, if and when it is implemented.

There will be an AMC Legislative Committee meeting on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Speiker said the packets are ready for those Commissioners participating in the NACo Conference.

### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- She attended her first meeting of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC), where discussion was held on closing the achievement gap.
- On the Open House sponsored by Parks and Recreation for Tamarack Nature Center and the proposed changes to attract more people and kids to the environment and nature.
- She attended the reception for retiring Ramsey County Library Board member, Victoria Cox, held at the North St. Paul Library, and catered by the Polar Den.
- On a meeting of Community Power, working on the waste and toxicity efforts through the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. In 1996 we had a 50% recycling rate, and now is down to about 48%.

Commissioner Bennett reported:

- On a recent segment of Almanac.
- On the retirement of Jerry Auge, a 39-year, 8-month, Ramsey County Public Works employee. He is a great example of many employees in the way he works with people. A Proclamation from the County will be presented to him on Friday.

Commissioner Carter:

- Introduced Deanne Dorsey, working in her office as an intern on legislative issues.

### BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Parker reported:

- She attended the Library Board meeting, where a consultant reported on long-term facilities planning. A plan will be taken out to the communities for discussion and input.
- Representing the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), she attended a meeting of a new intergovernmental task force called Maximizing Government Resources, sponsored by the big-three organizations – League of Minnesota Cities, School Board Association, and AMC.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parker declared the meeting adjourned.

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board