



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
651-757-1500

<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Date: October 3, 2025
To: Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board members
From: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl, Executive Secretary, CAAPB

RE: AGENDA ITEM #4 – Community Vitality Planning Update

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) is working closely with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) and Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA) to implement several of the goals identified by the Capitol Area Community Task Force. The programming will focus on public safety, community building events, youth and family programming, business grants, and ambassadors focusing on community cleanup.

The programming explained in the workplan later in this memo will continue to be coordinated in partnership with existing local community members, businesses and groups, and is entirely within the community goals documented and prioritized by the Task Force in 2024 and submitted to CAAPB and the legislature.

At the October 2025 CAAP Board Meeting, board members will meet the team leads from the Sheriff's Office and hear an overview presentation of the following information, followed by a chance to ask questions.

Background

In the final Minnesota State Government bill language this session ([Chapter 39 – SF3045](#)), the Vitality Account plan (\$3 million) was approved and signed into law in 2025.

Sec. 45. APPROPRIATION; ADMINISTRATION.

\$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the Capitol Area community vitality account to the commissioner of administration for a grant to Ramsey County for the Ramsey County sheriff to implement a coordinated public safety and livability plan in the Capitol Area. The plan must be developed in partnership with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and their community partners to improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area excluding the state-owned buildings and state leased-to-own buildings in the Capitol Area. The coordinated effort must focus specifically on public safety, youth and family programming, and street and neighborhood cleanup and ambassadors. The Ramsey County sheriff must consult the commissioner of public safety in all matters involving the Capitol complex prior to the expenditure of these funds. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2029.

In the final bonding bill, \$1 million was approved for the creation of a Capitol Area economic development grant program for the purpose of making grants to new and existing businesses within the Capitol Area in the amount of \$50,000 to \$150,000. ([Chapter 14, H.F. No. 17, Section 3, Subdivision 3.](#))

Subd. 3. Capitol Area Economic Development Grant Program

1,000,000

(a) For a grant to the St. Paul Port Authority for the creation of a Capitol Area economic development grant program, for the purpose of making grants to new and existing businesses within the Capitol Area in the amount of \$50,000 to \$150,000 for operating equipment, facade, and other capital improvements with up to ten percent eligible for administration of the program.

An Integrated Revitalization Model Powered by RCSO, SPPA and CAAPB Collaborating with Community Partners

The project is designed to integrate public safety with community vitality, ensuring that safety efforts enable livability, social connection, and economic growth. It complements a separate \$1M grant to the Saint Paul Port Authority focused on business/economic development. CAAPB and RCSO have or will consult with neighborhood residents, neighborhood groups, State Agencies such as the Department of Administration Facilities Management, Department of Public Safety, Capitol Security, City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Police Department, Capitol Heights Block Club, Good Neighbor Group, dozens of businesses, a diversity of residents, several medical facilities, and institutions such as League of Minnesota Cities, Saint Paul City School, and Christ on Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, and the Good Neighbor Center.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Workplan

Developed in consultation with CAAPB Staff, legislative staff, and community group leads, the Capitol Area Public Safety & Vitality Project is a three-year initiative (July 2025–June 2028), funded by a \$3M state grant to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) (net \$2.865M after administrative costs). The programming is directly informed by the Community Vitality Task Force recommendations.

CAAPB's Role: Guidance, Relationships, and Support

Through quarterly reviews, CAAPB supports alignment with community priorities and the comprehensive plan. Collaborating with RCSO and partners, CAAPB offers expert guidance on design standards and community co-creation, enhancing the area's safety, livability, and economic vitality while addressing post-COVID challenges.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office: Three Pillars of Programming

1. **Public Safety through Community Engagement**
 - Deputies, patrols, mobile security cameras, safety walks.
 - **Goal:** 15% crime reduction in disorderly conduct/narcotics by Year 3.
2. **Youth & Family Programming**
 - After-school, leadership, literacy, conflict resolution, family nights, arts and wellness activities.
 - **Goal:** 300 youth engagements annually, 500 storefront interactions, 80% positive feedback.
3. **Neighborhood Cleanup & Ambassadors**
 - Street beautification, quarterly cleanups, placemaking projects, youth-led initiatives.

- **Goal:** Quarterly cleanup events and receive positive community feedback on neighborhood appearance by Year 3.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Supporting Structure:

- **Regular partner and community meetings** convening a working 'CAP Team' to drive and support programming and to report on progress towards objectives.
- **Community Gatherings and Pop-Up Barbeques** leveraging current practices RSCO brings.
- **Rice Street storefront hub** providing a visible address to host engagement activities, community and partnership meetings, youth programs, safety resources, and business grants and resources.
- **Community input and co-creation** via forums and surveys.
- **Performance metrics** built into regular reporting and CAAPB consultations.
- **Website** for resources and grant information, latest updates, event info, calendar, promotion, and reporting on successes.
- **Collaboration from the Sheriff's Team** as an Inspector from RSCO will lead each of the programming pillars, all managed by Inspector Darrin McDonald. RSCO Deputies will patrol the Capitol Area, coordinating and complementing SPPD and Capitol Security's established presence in the Capitol Area.
 - Note: RSCO Inspectors programming activities and Deputies presence will focus on off-campus issues. RSCO Community Service Officers and Ambassadors will assist.

Strengths of the Work Plan

- **Alignment with Task Force recommendations** on youth programming, cleanup/ambassadors, community co-creation, and safety/livability balance.
- **Clear, measurable outcomes** tied to budget allocations (crime reduction, engagement counts, survey targets).
- **Partnership-driven** approach — includes CAAPB, Port Authority, nonprofits, schools, and residents (Consulting with: City of Saint Paul, DPS, Capitol Security).
- **Sustaining of Vitality** gains, and momentum through post-2028 initial funding sunset, Rice Street reconstruction.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Budget Overview

Total Net Budget: **\$2.865M** (plus in-kind contributions valued over \$1M).

1. **Community Engagement & Youth Services – \$1.49M (52%)**
 - Four Community Service Officers (\$939K).
 - Nonprofit contracts for youth development (\$175K), family outreach (\$150K), social connection (\$165K), and placemaking/wellness (\$60K).
 - In-kind: Frogtown Community Center space, local artists, RSCO supplemental youth programming.
2. **Community Policing & Safety – \$966K (34%)**
 - Two Deputies full-time (\$906K).
 - Mobile security camera (\$60K).
 - In-kind: RSCO crime analysis, leadership, partnerships, supplemental patrols.
3. **Infrastructure & Accessibility – \$188K (7%)**
 - Rice Street storefront setup (\$88K) and operations (\$100K).

- In-kind: accessibility design consultation, volunteer contributions.
- 4. **Administrative Overhead – \$150K (5%)**
 - State (4.5%) and County oversight (hiring, planning, coordination).
 - In-kind: CAAPB staff support, fiscal management systems.
- 5. **Supplies & Equipment – \$70K (2%)**
 - Youth program supplies, outreach materials, signage (\$50K).
 - CPED improvements (lighting, etc., \$20K).
 - In-kind: cleanup kits, volunteer labor.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Summary Budget Table

Category	Amount (\$)	Percentage (%)	Details
1. Community Engagement/Youth Services	\$1,489,909	52%	Ambassadors, youth/family programs
2. Community Policing & Safety	\$966,582	34%	Deputies, mobile camera, patrols
3. Infrastructure/Accessibility	\$188,508	7%	Rice Street storefront setup
4. Administrative Overhead	\$150,000	5%	Grant oversight, coordination
5. Program Supplies/Equipment	\$70,000	2%	Youth materials, CPTED investments
Total	\$2,865,000	100%	(Net after \$135,000 overhead)

In-kind contributions by RCSO currently estimated at: \$1,089,000.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Implementation Timeline

Year 1 (2025–2026):

- Deploy deputies & camera, launch storefront, co-create youth programs (100–300 youth).
- Quarterly CAAPB check-ins; three block parties; three public art projects.

Year 2 (2026–2027):

- Sustain patrols, storefront, and youth programs (300+ youth annually).
- Annual CAAPB report showing 15% crime reduction, 70% positive safety surveys.
- Develop long-term Rice Street vitality plan.

Year 3 (2027–2028):

- Secure post-2028 funding.
- Achieve final metrics: 15% crime reduction, 80% positive youth feedback, 75% satisfaction with storefront hub.

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Governance & Oversight

- **Fiscal oversight:** Department of Administration; monthly invoicing by RCSO; quarterly budget reviews.

- **Metrics and Accountability:** Quarterly community and CAAPB check-ins and annual public presentations (2026–2028) that include updates on performance measures — safety, youth engagement, trust score increases, livability and overall community satisfaction.

Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office Next Steps

- 1. Initiate Year 1 Implementation (2025–2026):** Deploy deputies and mobile security cameras, launch the Rice Street storefront hub, and co-create youth programs targeting 100–300 youth engagements, while organizing block parties and community engagement efforts.
- 2. Establish Quarterly Check-ins and Metrics Tracking:** Set up the governance structure with quarterly CAAPB and community check-ins to monitor progress, ensuring fiscal oversight through monthly invoicing by RCSO and tracking performance metrics such as crime reduction, youth engagement, and community feedback.
- 3. Develop Partnerships and Community Co-Creation Forums:** Convene the ‘CAP Team’ with RCSO, Saint Paul Port Authority, and community partners (e.g., Capitol Heights Block Club, local businesses, nonprofits) to hold regular meetings and community forums, ensuring ongoing input and co-creation through surveys and events to align programming with Task Force recommendations.

Saint Paul Port Authority (SPPA):

Capitol Outreach for Revitalization and Expansion (CORE) Grant Program

Overview

The Saint Paul Port Authority’s **Capitol Outreach for Revitalization and Expansion (CORE) Grant Program**, authorized by the Legislature during the last session, is a **capital improvement initiative** designed to:

- **Spur economic revitalization** in the Capitol Area,
- **Strengthen community resilience**, and
- **Support long-term business growth.**

This program directly aligns with the Capitol Area Community Vitality (CACV) Task Force outcomes and 2040 Comprehensive Plan goals, emphasizing equity and inclusion, sustainability, community-driven development, and neighborhood vitality.

SPPA Program Design

The CORE program introduces a **key economic development tool** for the Capitol Area, enabling businesses to make transformative capital investments that generate jobs, enhance vitality, and expand the tax base. Staff will continue to coordinate with the Port Authority and provide updates as implementation moves forward.

- **Funding & Scope:** Up to **17 grants** will be awarded, ranging from **\$50,000 to \$150,000**.
- **Eligible Applicants:** Businesses operating within or relocating to the Capitol Area.
- **Use of Funds:** Capital improvements such as equipment purchases, façade upgrades, and property-based investments.
- **Ineligible Applicants:** Mobile or home-based businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations. This restriction reflects the Port Authority’s mission to expand the job base and tax base.

SPPA Administration

- The Port Authority is finalizing program documents with the Department of Administration, including the budget, workplan, application, and grant agreement.
- Applications will be reviewed and scored by the Port Authority's Credit Committee.
- Compliance with Minnesota contracting law is required (prevailing wage, contractor in good standing, and conflict-of-interest standards).

SPPA Next Steps

- **Outreach Campaign:** Targeted to partners, stakeholders, elected officials, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, and the community. Engagement will include informational meetings, direct outreach, and social media.
- **Timeline:** Applications are anticipated to open in November/December 2025, positioning local businesses to launch investments as early as 2026.

Attachment

Attachment A: Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Draft Vitality Program Workplan