

**ABC Newspaper and
Anoka County Shopper**

Division of ECM Publishers, Inc



4101 Coon Rapids Blvd., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

November 18, 2014

Jo Thieling
City Clerk
City of Ramsey
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Dear Jo:

It is with great pleasure that we ask to serve as the official newspaper for the City of Ramsey in 2015. As we continue to implement new changes in the newspaper to improve readership, we feel it's important to provide readers with the city's public notices in addition to news stories, features and photographs of local events we cover each week.

We would like to publish your public notices in the Anoka County UnionHerald. The legal publication rate for the Anoka County UnionHerald as of January 1, 2015, will be \$10.75 per column inch. If any documents need to be manually typeset, a \$20 flat fee will be charged per public notice. We have held our public notice rates steady since 2008, but this year due to increased costs of labor and materials will be taking a small increase from the prior years. As a newspaper published in the County of Anoka, we meet the requirements to qualify as an official legal newspaper.

We have appreciated your business over the past years and hope that we can be of service to you in 2015 as a credible, locally-owned, weekly community news source. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (763) 712-3532 or email me at jill.donahue@ecm-inc.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jill Donahue'.

Jill Donahue
Business Manager

Jo Thieling

From: Tom Murray <tom.murray@ecm-inc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Jo Thieling
Subject: Ramsey's 2015 Public Notices

January 6, 2015

Dear Jo,

As you consider the bids that best serve the public interest, the best choice is the Anoka County UnionHerald as the City of Ramsey's 2015 official Legal Newspaper.

Almost all of a governing body's work, including legal descriptions, notices of public meetings, hearings, bid requests, ordinance enactments, tax law changes, and assumed names, require by law that a third party publish the request and activities of that body for all to see (both online and in print). This serves as a notice of transparency to all interested parties ahead of the fact and as an archived testament of the actions after the fact, proving legally that proper notice was given.

The laws for being certified as a "qualified legal newspaper" have a number of stipulations that ensure, A: that a trusted third party, rather than the governing body, controls the flow of information; and, B: the vehicle that compiles and delivers the printed and digital versions of these Public Notices does indeed adhere to the standards of the State of Minnesota. Any action or meeting completed with improper notice may be challenged and possibly dismissed as if it never happened.

The Public Notice laws were clearly formulated to require that a city's official "Legal Newspaper" be trusted as the keeper and timely dispenser of the public's information in accordance with the laws.

In the State statutes, there is no mandate that a public body must accept the lowest rate bid. The law does require that bids be entertained, but the rate is not necessarily the only factor that can, or should, go into choosing your Legal Newspaper. Besides price, public reach and credibility should be factored into any decision for Public Notice assignment. In fact, there are many examples across Minnesota in which the lowest bids have not been adopted. Ramsey residents are best served with the transparency that only a trusted print circulation and an active, well-visited website can offer.

Anoka County UnionHerald publishes and distributes over 4,300 qualified legal newspapers every week in towns and cities throughout Anoka County. Our newspapers are audited for verified circulation. We are unwavering in our commitment to the highest standards and compliance as your Legal Newspaper publisher. We cover your governmental meetings and events with information and publicity in our local papers every week - as we have done for over a century.

With over 80 employees working in Anoka County, the economic impact of our workforce spending is significant. Many of our employees live in Anoka County - some are probably your neighbors - who pay taxes and contribute to your local communities.

The property from which we operate the Anoka County UnionHerald as well as the corporate offices for ECM Publishers, Inc. are located in Anoka County. (ECM is the publisher of 49 newspapers

throughout the metro and outstate, with over 600,000 circulation each week.) Last year, we paid over \$100,000 in county property taxes.

ABCNewspapers.com is one of the busiest websites in Anoka County. We see more than 53,000 "unique visitors" to our website each month in search of information of all types, including an archived Public Notice section that stores and displays your Public Notices to meet and exceed 331A.02-Subd.5.

As you finalize your choice for your Official Legal Newspaper for 2015, I urge you to take all the above considerations into account.

I look forward to continuing our relationship as the City of Ramsey's Legal Newspaper. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the value and assurances that the Anoka County UnionHerald offers through our Public Notice publication services.

Sincerely,

Tom Murray

Tom Murray
ECM Publishers, Inc
Direct - 763-712-3533
Cell - 612-741-7055
tom.murray@ecm-inc.com

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Anoka County **RECORD**

PO Box 21014 • Columbia Heights MN 55421-0014 • (763) 220-0411
E-Mail: editor@anokacountyrecord.com Website: www.anokacountyrecord.com

December 26, 2014

City of Ramsey Mayor & Council,

Some of the largest counties, cities, and school districts in Minnesota **DO NOT** publish their legal notices in newspapers that are considered household names, like the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* or the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*.

Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, and Minneapolis Public Schools publish with *Finance & Commerce*. Ramsey County publishes with the *Ramsey County Review*. City of Saint Paul and Saint Paul Public Schools publish with the *Saint Paul Legal Ledger*.

Finance & Commerce, *Ramsey County Review*, and *Saint Paul Legal Ledger* are all qualified legal newspapers that serve Hennepin and Ramsey counties.

Why do they publish with these legal newspapers? Because their rates are up to **90% LESS!**

Instead of paying ten times more to publish a legal notice, they have chosen to publish with these lower cost alternatives. Then they invest the savings into other communication tools such as better websites, more newsletters, etc.

In Anoka County, *Anoka County Record* serves the entire county in the same manner that *Finance & Commerce*, *Ramsey County Review*, and *Saint Paul Legal Ledger* serve their respective counties.

Legal publication rates with *Anoka County Record* are up to **90% LESS** than the *Anoka County UnionHerald*, *Blaine-Spring Lake Park Life*, *Quad Community Press*, *Forest Lake Times*, or the *Columbia Heights-Fridley Sun Focus*.

2015 Anoka County Record - Rates & Options

In 2015, *Anoka County Record* will publish **WEEKLY** government legal notices for cities and school districts for up to **90% LESS** than other newspapers in the county and state.

In 2015, *Anoka County Record* will offer two **WEEKLY** publication options.

Option #1 (flat rate): Best Value with up to 90% savings

- **\$10 flat rate per legally required publication notice***
Anoka County Record price = \$10 per notice, regardless of length. Other publications charge \$50 - \$750 per notice.
- **e-Affidavit of Publication provided to clients and archived online**
Affidavit of Publication is emailed and archived online. Print and US Mail available.
- **Complimentary newspapers delivered to city or town hall + website access**
- **Quarterly e-Billing with detailed publication information**
Anoka County Record bills quarterly with easy to read descriptive billing. Other publications bill multiple times per month with cryptic invoices making it difficult to spot check for accounting purposes.

**(Legally required notices include public hearings, ordinances, charter commission, elections, bids, job postings, plus any other legally required notices. Publication of community events for example would not be considered legally required and would be published at discounted display rates.)*

	Anoka County Record	Other papers
Typical 36-line hearing notice:	\$10	\$40
Typical 72-line ordinance notice:	\$10	\$80
Typical 135-line ordinance notice:	\$10	\$150

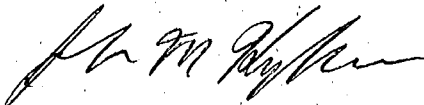
Option #2 (per column inch rate):

Anoka County Record will also continue to offer the traditional billing method for those who wish to be billed "per column inch" for legal notice publications.

- \$5 per column inch
- Affidavit of Publication through US Mail
- Billing through US Mail

Anoka County Record's goal is to provide legal notice publication services for the lowest price, best value, and with the best customer service. Let us know how we can serve you.

Sincerely,



John M. Kysylyczyn
Owner & Publisher
Anoka County Record

Jo Thieling

From: editor@anokacountyrecord.com
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 7:38 PM
To: Jo Thieling
Subject: Letter for Council for Tuesday
Attachments: 01.09.15 Letter to City of Ramsey.PDF

Ms. Thieling,

Attached is a letter for staff and the council concerning the legal newspaper issue on the agenda for Tuesday. I would greatly appreciate it if you could distribute this.

I have been invited to a council meeting in another city to discuss newspaper issues on Tuesday evening. I will be unable to attend the Ramsey council meeting.

Please let me know if there are any questions. I would be more than happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

John M. Kysylyczyn
Owner & Publisher
Anoka County Record
PO Box 21014
Columbia Heights, MN 55421-0014

Member - Minnesota Newspaper Association

Anoka County RECORD

PO Box 21014 • Columbia Heights MN 55421-0014 • (763) 220-0411
E-Mail: editor@anokacountyrecord.com Website: www.anokacountyrecord.com

January 9, 2015

City of Ramsey
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

Mayor & City Council,

At your meeting of January 13, 2015, you will have the option of selecting from one of two offers to publish your legal notices. You will have the option of joining **Anoka County, Ham Lake, and Oak Grove** as local governments that use us to publish their legal notices.

Last week, **Anoka County** named us as their publisher of all legal notices for 2015. **ALL Anoka County legal notices** will now be exclusively found in our paper, not in anyone else's paper. Let me restate this. **Anoka County legal notices will NOT be found in the Union in 2015.**

We will publish your legal notices for \$10 per notice. Yes, this is a flat fee per notice.

Based upon 2014 numbers, the Anoka County Record would charge your city \$690 to publish all of your legal notices. **This is \$7,766 less than the other paper.**

Effective this week, we now publish **weekly** and would honor the **\$10 per notice** price for ordinances, public hearings, elections, advertisements for bids, financial statements, help wanted ads, and commission vacancies, etc.

Print circulation of both papers in Ramsey is approximately 1-2%. No one can tell whether any Ramsey resident is actually viewing legal notices on newspaper websites. Our cost per reader is about \$2 vs. the other paper's cost of \$25 per reader.

You have our commitment that you will have our lowest flat rate price. **For the past two years, you have been subsidizing Anoka County's legal notices as they have**

paid \$5 per column inch while you continue to be charged over \$10 per column inch for the same exact service from the same newspaper. We don't believe that cities should be subsidizing the county or that they should be subsidizing **large** newspaper corporations.

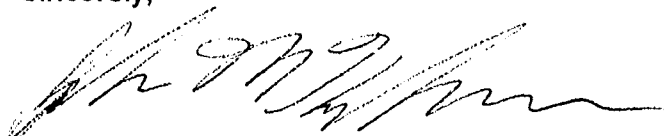
You have previously informed your legislative delegation that they should support repealing newspaper publication laws due to their cost to the city. **It would seem logical then that if the city could not eliminate this cost, they would pick the option which is the lowest priced.** We are here to help you on that.

Every session, the newspaper publication issue comes before the legislature. Last year, the Newspaper Association excoriated the League of Minnesota Cities on this issue before the Senate Local Government committee. **What was especially devastating to the League's position of allowing internet posting only, were the numerous examples of Anoka County cities that voluntarily paid up to ten times more to publish legal notices.** Many of the cities that chose to pay up to ten times more were the same cities complaining about price. The hypocrisy was not lost on many senators.

Remember, while you are required to select a legal newspaper at the first meeting of the year, the Attorney General has stated that **you can switch anytime you want.** Therefore, I challenge you to switch newspapers. My bet is that few if any will even notice the change. If the citizens start marching on city hall demanding that you pay ten times more to publish notices in the other paper, you are always free to switch back.

Selecting the Union as your legal newspaper will simply continue the tradition of Anoka County cities paying more on average to publish legal notices than cities in other metro counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Kysylyczyn', written in a cursive style.

John M. Kysylyczyn
Owner & Publisher