

FOR WARD 2 | FORWARD, TOO
MATT WOESTEHOFF

September 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Economic Development Authority-

As a member of our community, and business leader, I ask that the City review a program put forth by the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

This program is a certification that would help Ramsey identify itself as TelecommuterForward!

As I've sat on the Planning Commission over the years, I remember specifically hearing one proposal that would include a coworking space. I was particularly excited at this possibility, as I've seen them be extremely successful in my experience at my day job.

With the pandemic we're currently facing, I believe that teleworking will continue to be at the forefront of businesses in the future when a non-retail storefront is required. This is not just a short-term perspective, but one that will continue on well past COVID-19. Incubator and coworking spaces will potentially become even more popular as we find a space between our kitchen tables, and downtown office desks. This presents Ramsey an opportunity to continue to focus on what we do best – balance our rural feel with suburban amenities. Reliable high-speed internet is extremely important for this to take place.

Additionally, focusing on working with broadband providers is even more important, because of the continual pressures of distance learning on our infrastructure.

For Ramsey to achieve this certification, a resolution must be agreed upon and passed, as well as naming an individual as a point of contact on the topic. DEED has actually provided a template for such a resolution along with the Application which I've preemptively brought for your review.

As Ramsey, and the EDA continue to evolve with the new life of businesses, I'd encourage your review of this program and see if it is something that you would support and bring to City Council.

Thank you for your time, and all that you do to help move our community forward.

Sincerely yours,



Matt Woestehoff

Father/Husband/Business Leader/Ramsey Commissioner/Ward 2 Candidate
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Resources: <https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/telecommuter-forward/>