

Twin City Gateway Visitor Bureau FAQ 7-24-24(updated 10-16-24)

Is there any cost to the city associated with the City implementing a lodging tax?
NO

How much city staff time would be needed to implement a lodging tax? Time to put Council / EDA cases together. Adopt a Resolution. TC Gateway to hold hands on this process (Attend meetings, etc.)

How long until it would be operational (Lodging tax would be received by City for use)? A date can be set to begin collection. Typically, January 1 is a good date to start

Does money go directly to hotels or does City need to forward it to them? Hotel collects 3% lodging tax, they send the entire amount to us. (monthly)

How much money can the City of Ramsey expect to receive annually (less what is provided to Visitors Bureau) and what could the City use it for? City would keep 5% of total lodging tax receipts (\$6,900 estimate, 138K total estimate based on Arden Hills). Administrative cost to wherever we want. Fridley dedicated this to its tourism related activities.

Annual City Grants approved by Visitor Bureau for City Events?
\$5,000 year one. Possibly up to \$18,000 after that. Could use for Happy Days

Are VRBO or Air BNB's be subject to Lodging tax? NO. No other cities in Visitors Bureau implement lodging tax on VRBO's

Can the City opt out any time? A year's notice required by Visitor Bureau. AI checking on state statutory requirements, could be less time

Additional Questions /Information following August EDA meeting

Can you send a draft resolution to implement the 3% lodging tax for the City of Ramsey in a Word Document? Lino Lakes provided a Copy of its Ordinance Creating a Lodging Tax. AI Provided the Code adopted by Waconia. If the Council directs staff to move forward with implementation of a lodging tax, our City

attorney will work with the TC Visitor Bureau to get legal documents and process prepared for Council action

You have an Equity Diversity Inclusion statement as referenced at the EDA meeting this morning. Is this a general statement or do you use this as a guide in hiring practices for TC Gateway VB employees or contracted employees? Any other purposes? Answer from AI below

Social Inclusion Statement:

Promote belonging and opportunities through our leadership, initiatives and practices.

We do this in a number of ways.

- We show diverse ages, races, genders and abilities in our marketing materials.
- We have ADA and translation abilities on our website.
- We show diverse people on our social media platforms.
- We have a diverse board of directors. Not only are they coming from 10 different communities, but they are different ages, races, genders and come from diverse socio and economic backgrounds. Board member are appointed by the City Council of our member cities and approved by the TCG Board of Directors.

In regards to hiring and grants, we do not have anything in place. We hire the best person for the job regardless of their background and in regards to grants, we do not give any points or favoritism to any organization based on their social background.

For Regional and Local Grant applications through TC Gateway, is DEI, or preference to certain demographics, race, gender identity given preferential scoring / special consideration? No. The Grant Criteria for 2024 is an attachment to the Work Session Case

What is the official business entity name for the non profit 501 c(6)? Minnesota Metro North Tourism, a Copy of the Secretary State Business Record is attached to WS Case. A member wanted to do some research on the organization in advance of CCWS meeting.

8/23/24 – Phone Call with AI Stauffer

October 22 CCWS and Future CC meeting

Steps needed:

- Adopt an Ordinance to institute Lodging Tax
- Approve Agreement from TC Gateway