



REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AGENDA
April 14, 2026 – 6 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS
4. FLOCK CAMERAS
5. CLERK/TREASURER BACKPAY
6. LETTER REGARDING SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DUTIES
7. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR HCMC SALES TAX
8. MISC – OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
9. ADJOURNMENT

Note that the City Council makes no decisions or takes any votes at work sessions. The council will review items for background and future official action at a Regular or Special City scheduled Council meeting. If posted as regularly scheduled work sessions before the 1st council meeting of each month at 6pm, items may be added to the agenda for discussion or informational purposes. Special work sessions at other than the regularly scheduled time cannot add or discuss items other than those posted with the Special Work Session agenda.



City of Tonka Bay 952.474.7994
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Tonka Bay, MN
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April 14, 2026

Mayor Adam Jennings
City of Tonka Bay
4901 Manitou Road
Tonka Bay, MN 55331

Subject: Comments regarding Sheriff's duties

Dear Hennepin County Commissioners,

As Mayors and Police Chiefs of Hennepin County cities, we write to express serious concern about recent statements made by Commissioner Marion Greene regarding the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office role. Commissioner Greene stated publicly that she is "not willing to fund the sheriff to provide public safety for Hennepin County," and suggested that public safety on the streets is not the Sheriff's responsibility, that it belongs solely to local police departments. As the leaders of those local police departments, that is news to us.

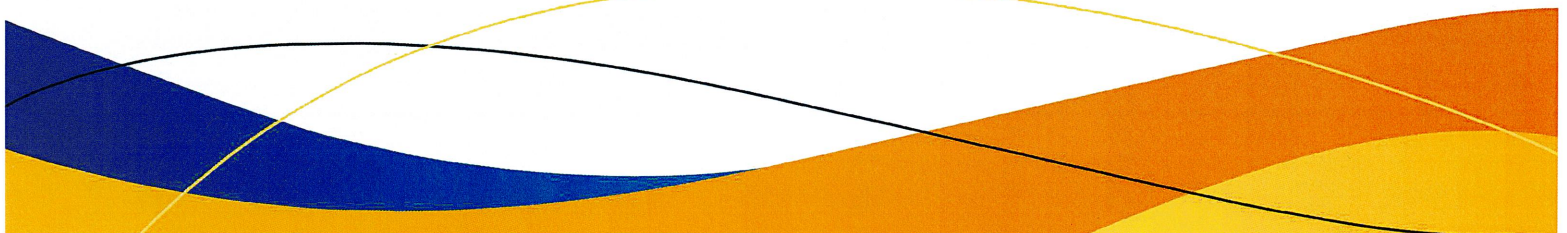
Public safety in Hennepin County is a shared responsibility, and the Sheriff's Office is an indispensable part of that ecosystem. Some communities, like Greenfield, have no local police department and rely entirely on the Sheriff's Office for primary patrol. The vast majority of cities rely on the Sheriff for 911 dispatch, crime lab services, and investigative support. Every city benefits from Sheriff's Office-led task forces. And every city depends on the continued function of the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center.

This is not abstract. Our cities benefit from this work every single day. To give a few examples, Sheriff's Office deputies arrived within minutes of the Annunciation Church shooting to aid victims and process the scene. Sheriff's Office analysts and crime scene investigators worked nights processing evidence from the fatal shooting of Officer Jamal Mitchell. From a hostage situation in Corcoran, to a carjacking in Greenfield, to an encampment homicide in Minneapolis, our communities rely on the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office to deal with our most critical public safety threats.

The Sheriff's statutory obligation under Minnesota law is to "keep and preserve the peace" within the county, a mandate that is long-established and essential. Commissioner Greene's suggestion that local police departments can absorb this responsibility is not grounded in reality, tradition, or Minnesota law.

The data makes this plain. The Minneapolis metro already ranks among the lowest in police staffing per capita in the country. In a comparison of the twelve most similarly sized cities nationally, Minneapolis ranked second-lowest in combined police and sheriff staffing, above only Omaha, Nebraska. Remove the Sheriff's support and we would rank lowest in the country by a wide margin.

This is not a hypothetical. Crimes would go unsolved. 911 calls would go unanswered. Public safety





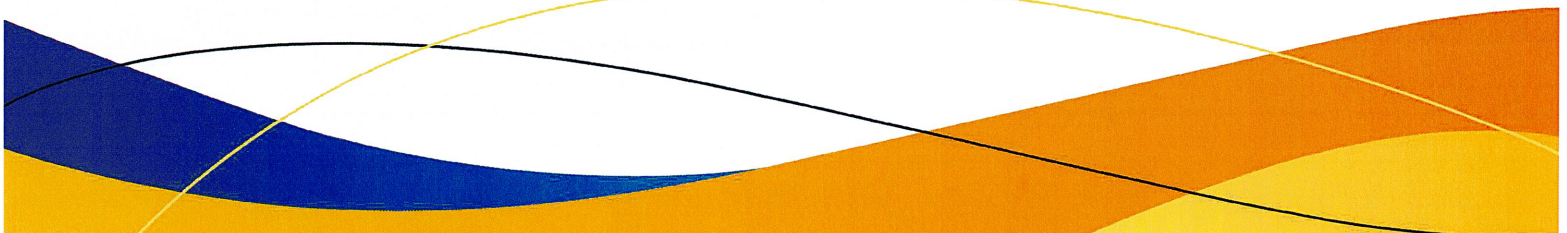
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would suffer. All of our residents would pay the price.

We share your budgetary concerns and face many of the same pressures in our own cities. But public safety is a primary obligation of elected officials at every level. The Sheriff's Office represents approximately 6% of the Hennepin County operating budget. We need that investment. We encourage you to fund it appropriately.

Sincerely,

Adam Jennings, Mayor
City of Tonka Bay
ajennings@cityoftonkabay.net
612-965-1488





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April 14, 2025

Mayor Adam Jennings
City of Tonka Bay
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Subject: HCMC Sales Tax support

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature:

As Mayor of the City of Tonka Bay, I write to express strong support for authorizing the proposed Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) sales tax. HCMC is a vital health care safety-net and specialty provider whose services directly benefit residents across the Twin Cities metro and greater Minnesota. Supporting this measure will protect and strengthen care access for our most vulnerable neighbors while sustaining critical regional health infrastructure.

HCMC provides essential emergency and trauma care, behavioral health services, primary and specialty care for low-income and uninsured patients, and workforce training that bolsters the broader health system. Reliable, local funding will help HCMC maintain high-quality services, invest in needed facility and technology upgrades, expand mental health and addiction treatment capacity, and retain clinical staff in an increasingly competitive labor market. Those investments reduce long-term costs to cities and counties by improving health outcomes, decreasing avoidable emergency care, and supporting community-based treatment options.

Tonka Bay residents and families depend on a resilient regional health system. Enabling HCMC to secure sustainable, modest sales tax revenue is a prudent way to preserve access to lifesaving and routine care, ensure readiness for public health emergencies, and support the economic stability of health-care employment across our region.

I urge the Legislature to approve the HCMC sales tax authorization so that Hennepin County can continue to deliver equitable, high-quality care to all who need it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Jennings, Mayor
City of Tonka Bay
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