

FEB 13 2006

RESOLUTION #06- 16

RESOLUTION BY OLMSTED COUNTY
MANDATE REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota Session Laws 2005, Chapter 156, art 2, sect 3 now codified in Minn. Stat 6.79 states, "A county, town, school district, or statutory or home rule charter city may file a written resolution with the state auditor objecting to a state mandate or making recommendations for reforming a state mandate;" and

WHEREAS, the State Auditor has encouraged local governments to consider submitting those state mandates, to list on her web site, that they believe are in particular need of reform or repeal to help legislators identify them; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Metropolitan Intercounty Association have worked to develop a sample list of mandates to aid counties in their response to the State Auditor's request; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Counties are facing massive cuts in federal funding for provision of state mandated social services due to the recently passed Federal Budget Reconciliation Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board supports actions which improve efficiency and increase effectiveness of state and local public services delivered to our joint constituents; and,

WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board finds that it could provide better services for less tax dollars in some instances if certain state mandates were repealed and other shared and underfunded programs were more fully funded by our state partners; and

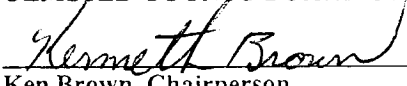
WHEREAS, the Olmsted County Board finds that listing and reforming mandates is only one tool to improving the state-county relationship and enhancing outcomes for citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners supports forwarding the attached list, "Mandates Submission to State Auditor , Brief Sample From Among Thousands, Edited by Olmsted County" to the State Auditor for listing with other mandate reform proposals on her web site, and also to other counties in southeast Minnesota, urging them to participate in this opportunity.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners suggests a more comprehensive look at statutes that impact local costs: report requirements; increased criminal penalties; process changes to our administration of state statute or programs; the statutory setting of fees (or requirement that a service be free) for local government services, data, or building use; and statutory exemptions or special practices which lead to higher capital and maintenance costs of county infrastructure.

Dated at Rochester, Minnesota this 7th day of February, 2006.

OLMSTED COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Ken Brown, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Richard Devlin, clerk-Administrator



Human Resources / Employee Benefits				
Mandate	Statute	Rule	Comments	Additional Questions or Issues
Either Eliminate or Totally State-Fund Continued Health Insurance For Disabled Peace Officers.	299A.465		Employers are required to pay the employer share of disabled peace officers' and their dependents' health insurance until the peace officer reaches age 65 even if the officer gains other employment and health insurance coverage. Since this benefit was created in the late 1990's, there has been a surge in disability retirements. In part because of this, both employer and employee contribution rates to the PERA Police and Fire pension plan are increasing over 50%. When this benefit was originally enacted it was predicated on the state paying 100% of its costs. The state has not kept it part of that bargain for several years. If the state cannot meet that obligation, the mandated payment by the employer should be eliminated.	