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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voluntary Separation Program Yields Savings for Anoka County Taxpayers

A voluntary separation program for county employees will save Anoka County taxpayers \$1.5 million annually in salary and benefits costs. The program, which ended in June, offered employees with at least 10 years of service a \$10,000 post-employment health savings account. Employees could receive another \$500 for each additional full year of service up to 25 years for a maximum benefit of \$22,500. The benefit amount was pro-rated for part-time employees.

Of 398 eligible employees, 97 signed up for the program. Positions were held vacant for a minimum of two months, which covered the \$1.6 million payout to departing employees. Future ongoing savings will result from not filling some positions and either restructuring or hiring replacements at a lower pay rate for the balance.

“This program is clearly a win-win for both taxpayers and employees,” said Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah. “It’s an innovative way to stretch our tax dollars and still maintain an appropriate level of service to citizens.”

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