



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

Presented by: Commissioner Carter Date: September 11, 2018 No. B2018-239
Attention: County Manager

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution directs a decennial census count of all persons living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Complete, accurate census data is of critical importance to all residents of Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul for equal political representation, fair distribution of federal and state funding, and sound planning and investment in infrastructure, real estate, business development, and public policy and programming; and

WHEREAS, Broad areas of Ramsey County are at risk of being undercounted, with over half of the county's census tracts having predicted mail response rates lower than 80% and ten tracts within the geographic boundaries of Saint Paul having predicted census response rates of less than 70%, lower than the state's 2010 response rate as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is home to large populations of people who, historically, have been disproportionately undercounted, including people of color, low-income households, students, non-English speaking people, and foreign-born people; and

WHEREAS, The proposed addition of a question on citizenship status to the 2020 Census is widely expected to depress census response rates even further, as foreign-born residents and their families may avoid participation for fear that census data could be used to deport or otherwise target respondents and/or their family members; and

WHEREAS, Achieving a complete and accurate census count will require extensive work to increase awareness about the census and motivate residents to fill in and return their census forms; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census Bureau will require partners at the state and local level to complete this work and encourages the formation of local-level Complete Count Committees to educate residents about how the census works, the importance of an accurate, complete count, and the confidentiality of census data; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of a Complete Count Committee jointly chaired by Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul will provide the opportunity for close coordination and enable us to use our resources most efficiently to focus on areas and communities that are historically undercounted and/or at risk of being undercounted in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul will invite and encourage all municipalities in Ramsey County to join the Complete Count Committee as members, as well as community partners who can provide local knowledge and expertise to reach out to all people in our community; and

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Table with 4 columns: Name, YEA, NAY, OTHER. Rows include Toni Carter, Blake Huffman, Mary Jo McGuire, Rafael Ortega, Victoria Reinhardt, Janice Rettman, and Jim McDonough.

Jim McDonough, Chair

Handwritten signature of Janet M. Guthrie

By: Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk - County Board



RAMSEY
COUNTY

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WHEREAS, The Ramsey County–Saint Paul Joint Complete Count Committee will also work with the Census Bureau and the State of Minnesota to work toward an accurate count; and now, Therefore, Be It

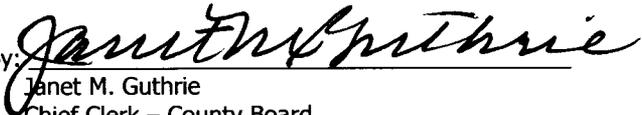
RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the establishment of a Ramsey County–City of Saint Paul Joint Complete Count Committee to support the 2020 Census; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners designates Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt as the Ramsey County co-chair of the Ramsey County–City of Saint Paul Joint Complete Count Committee.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Toni Carter	X		
Blake Huffman	X		
Mary Jo McGuire	X		
Rafael Ortega	X		
Victoria Reinhardt	X		
Janice Rettman	X		
Jim McDonough	X		

Jim McDonough, Chair

By: 
Janet M. Guthrie
Chief Clerk – County Board