

Proclamation

WHEREAS, In 1926, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson launched the celebration of Negro History Week; and

WHEREAS, February 1986 marked the beginning of National Black History Month to honor, recognize, promote and preserve Black history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2022 Ramsey County and City of Saint Paul Black History Month observance is “Black History for the Black Future”; and

WHEREAS, African children had to endure the trauma of being captured and forced into slavery in the United States; when at the end of the Civil War it was estimated that there was about four million Black slaves and more than one million slaves were under the age of 16 when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

WHEREAS, The children and youth who grew up in slavery were denied the most basic human rights, such as freedom, safety, protection from degrading and cruel treatment, compensation for work done, education, equality and the right to freely move around; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County recognizes and celebrates the Black children and youth and their connection, insightfulness and commitment to one another and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in three Black Ramsey County children are living in poverty and to address the harm caused by systems to Black children and youth, in 2017 Ramsey County started the Birth Equity Community Council to improve birth outcomes for Black families and closed Boys Totem Town in 2019, a facility that had disproportionate impacts on Black youth, particularly young Black men; and

WHEREAS, The Black future continues to inspire us with wisdom and creativity that are rich in truth and ingenuity, and that guides individuals and communities; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares February 2022 as Black History Month in Ramsey County; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners urges all Ramsey County employees and residents to honor, celebrate and support Black youth, as they hold deep roots of wisdom, progress, and resilience.



Trista MatasCastillo, Board Chair, District 3



Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Rafael E. Ortega, Commissioner, District 5




Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



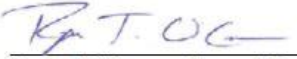
Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1



Toni Carter, Commissioner, District 4



Jim McDonough, Commissioner, District 6



Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager