

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to celebrate, acknowledge and honor the contributions of Black American's history and their culture; and

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Study of African American Life and History dedicates the 98th Annual Black History Month Theme in 2024 to "African Americans and the Arts;" and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Black Excellence Employee Resource Group celebrates the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression that is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County celebrates with the National Museum of African American History and Culture by uplifting the humanity, innovation and vision of African American artists here and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen; and

WHEREAS, Brownbody is a performance and education organization that reimagines the ice and the stage to shape, ignite, and sustain intergenerational Black folks in revolution + transformation + healing; and

WHEREAS, Brownbody exists to liberate Black artistry and humanity through a blend of dance, theater, and figure skating; and

WHEREAS, Brownbody's foundation is grounded in ongoing efforts to create nourishing offerings for Black communities, including pay-as-able learn to skate lessons, and the presentation of professional artistic work, and to maintain multiple points of entry for people to come as they are for their individual and collective well being; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is all about African Americans presenting all of their artistry through their various traditions that started over 300 years ago; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners proclaims February 6, 2024, as Black History Month in Ramsey County celebrating African Americans and the arts; and Be It Further

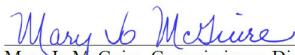
PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners urges all Ramsey County employees and residents to explore the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.



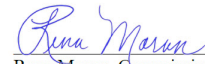
Trista Martinson, Board Chair, District 3



Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1




Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2




Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



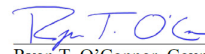
Rafael Ortega, Commissioner, District 5



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager