

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation; and the Emancipation Proclamation established that all enslaved people in Confederate states shall be set free; and

WHEREAS, Many slave owners in the state of Texas did not release their slaves; and on June 19th, 1865, General Gordon Grainger and his troops entered to Galveston, Texas after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee in Appomattox, Virginia. Upon General Grainger's arrival in Texas soil, he issued Generals Order No. 3; and

WHEREAS, This order officially declared the immediate release and freedom of the remainder of slaves located in Texas; and slaves that were forcefully held captive for almost three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued were finally pronounced freemen and freewomen; and

WHEREAS, In 1866, Black freedmen organized the first celebration of "Jubilee Day" on June 19 featuring music, ethnic cuisines, prayer services, and other activities; and June 19, is now recognized as a ceremonial holiday in forty-seven states, with Texas being the first to declare Juneteenth a state holiday in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a day of committed reflection recognizes that – across people and nations – historic, ongoing, structurally imbedded and government sanctioned racial discrimination has perpetuated its impacts upon all our generations, including until this very day; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge and recognize Nellie Francis, a Black civil rights activist who was the only African American who graduated from St. Paul Central in 1891 and who authored Minnesota's Anti-Lynching Bill that was passed in 1921; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge and recognize Frederick McGhee, the first Black lawyer in Minnesota admitted to the bar in 1889 who lived at 665 University Avenue, a founder member of St. Peter Claver church and founding member of the St. Paul Branch of the NAACP, who also found the American Law Enforcement League, who's main goal was to speak out against lynching's of Black people; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the ten Black people who were killed in Buffalo, New York on May 14, 2022 by a white supremacist, we acknowledge that injustice continues beyond the establishment of laws, as does the need for all of us to continue our individual and collective work for justice; Now, Therefore, Be It,

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board declare Juneteenth 19, 2022 as Juneteenth Day in Ramsey County.



Trista MatasCastillo, Board Chair, District 3



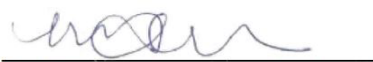
Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2




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