

# Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, Many slave owners in the state of Texas did not release their enslaved people; on June 19th, 1865, General Gordon Grainger and his troops entered Galveston, and officially declared the immediate release and freedom of the remainder of enslaved people who were forcefully held captive in Texas for almost three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued and 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, Today, the celebration of Juneteenth is stronger than ever before, as it has been fueled by the unfortunate, but extremely impactful deaths of Black Americans, such as Philando Castile, George Floyd, Jamar Clark, Daunte Wright, Justin Teigen, and countless more victims; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth as a day of committed reflection, recognizes that – across people and nations – historic and ongoing structurally-imbedded and government-sanctioned racial discrimination has visited and perpetuated its impacts upon all generations, including until this very day; Now, Therefore Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners directs the County Manager to work with other governmental partners and with the entire Ramsey County community to develop plans to annually celebrate Juneteenth by recognizing the collective and individual efforts to realize freedom justice and equity for all in Ramsey County, the state of Minnesota, and throughout the United States of America; and Be It Further

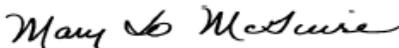
PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners directs the County Manager to formally incorporate Juneteenth Day as a recognized paid holiday within Ramsey County beginning in 2022 while remaining within an overall benefits structure of twelve paid holidays per calendar year, and to join other early adopters to advocate for its adoption as an official state and national holiday.



Toni Carter, Board Chair, District 4



Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1



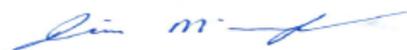
Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Trista MatasCastillo, Commissioner, District 3



Rafael E. Ortega, Commissioner, District 5



Jim McDonough, Commissioner, District 6



Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager