

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Karen came to Minnesota starting in the early 2000s as refugees from Myanmar to pursue the American dream of building better futures for their families; an estimated 17,000 Karen live and St. Paul and surrounding cities; and

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year occurs on the first day of the month of Pyathoe in the Karen calendar which calculates their New Year's Day from the beginning of their historic migration from Mongolia to Myanmar over 2,700 years ago.

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year marks the end of harvesting one crop of rice and the beginning of planting for the next rice crop –rice is a staple of the Karen diet and holds significant importance to the Karen people; and


WHEREAS, The Karen New Year celebrates the rich and unique cultural heritage, promotes the Karen language, literature and traditions, and creates opportunities for others to enjoy and build relationships with the Karen community; and

WHEREAS, The Karen people have given so much of themselves to help make Minnesota a vibrant, diverse, honest, progressive, and supportive place to live; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County recognizes the Karen community in their strength, determination, resilience, and value while committing to serve the Karen population who reside within Ramsey County; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares January 25, 2022 as Karen New Year Day in Ramsey County; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners encourages residents to celebrate the Karen New Year by learning about Karen history, cultivating cultural understanding, developing relationships and supporting our Karen neighbors in Ramsey County and beyond.

  
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