

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is home to the annual Hmong International Freedom Festival hosted by The United Hmong Family, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County acknowledges and celebrates the profound social, economic, and cultural influence brought forth by the Freedom Festival, which has indisputably become a vital part of our community; and

WHEREAS, 43 years ago, the inception of the Freedom Festival was rooted in the noble aspiration of fostering a harmonious union among Hmong Americans across the United States, in the wake of their diaspora from Southeast Asia; and


WHEREAS, The Freedom Festival supports local and family businesses with entrepreneurship and expansion of their businesses by offering opportunities for vendors to share a vast array of food and merchandise to thousands of spectators; and


WHEREAS, The Freedom Festival plays a crucial role as an important resource center, allowing local agencies and nonprofits to create awareness about significant programs and resources available to individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, The Freedom Festival fosters community building and engagement by nurturing the arts and talents of hundreds of athletes and musicians, thereby strengthening cultural pride and identity; and


WHEREAS, Through hosting the Freedom Festival, the United Hmong Family, Inc. bolsters local and state economies by contributing \$14 million dollars in revenue to the State of Minnesota and \$2 million dollars in taxes. Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares July 1st and 2nd of 2023 as the 43rd Hmong International Freedom Festival in Ramsey County.


Trista MatasCastillo, Board Chair, District 3


Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Rafael Ortega, Commissioner, District 5


Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7


Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1


Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4


Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6


Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager