

Proclamation

WHEREAS, In 1960's, the Civil Rights Movement helped to elevate Negro History week and turning it into a month-long celebration; and

WHEREAS, February 1986 marked the beginning of National Black History Month to honor, recognize, promote, and preserve Black history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2023 Ramsey County and city of Saint Paul Black History Month observance is "Bridging the Past and the Future: Black Resistance to Restoration"; and

WHEREAS, The African-American Leadership Forum was founded in 2006 to improve the lives of African Americans in Minnesota by building cross-sector networks of leaders and institutions that convenes, collaborates, and champions solutions; and

WHEREAS, The African-American Leadership Forum fueled Black resistance through the creation of the Josie Johnson Leadership Academy which has provided over 125 Black emerging leaders with guidance to improve outcomes for African Americans in Minnesota while dismantling white supremacy in leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Josie Johnson holds the distinction of being the first African-American to serve on the board of the League of Women Voters in the state of Minnesota served as the first African American on the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Josie Johnson has dedicated her entire life to resistance, activism, redemption, restoration, and reform in every area of our social construct; and

WHEREAS, Black Resistance to Restoration is the outpouring of positive responses affirmed by lived experience that Black joy is not just a weapon of resistance, it is a tool of resilience; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners recognizes February 2023 as Black History Month in Ramsey County; and Be It Further

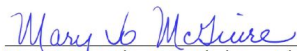
PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners urges all Ramsey County employees and residents to connect their history and find a balance to live in the future and learning their history of the past.




Trista MatasCastillo, Board Chair, District 3



Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1



Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



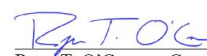
Rafael Ortega, Commissioner, District 5



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager