

Proclamation

WHEREAS, American Indian Month is celebrated every year in the month of May to recognize as an important time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of American Indian people; and

WHEREAS, Throughout May, American Indian organizations and Tribal Urban Offices open their doors to community and allies, offering meaningful opportunities to highlight the strength, resilience, and contributions of American Indian communities while fostering connection across generations; and

WHEREAS, It is also an opportune time to educate the general public about its vibrant urban community and Tribes, raise a general awareness about the unique challenges American Indian people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which Tribal Nations and citizens have worked to conquer these challenges; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County continues its unwavering support and commitment to reducing barriers experienced by our American Indian families and the responsibilities associated with this work through the permanent placement of a dedicated staff liaison, the American Indian Relations Administrator, and

WHEREAS, The name Ramsey County uncovers the truths and long-standing impact, harm, genocide and racism, at the direction of Governor Ramsey to forcefully remove the area's American Indian residents from their homelands, including the declaration that "the Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of the state," which led to the lynching of 38 Dakota men in Mankato on December 26, 1862; and

WHEREAS, Leaders from our American Indian community and Ramsey County will participate in a collaborative learning cohort in 2026 to focus on shared learning, strategy development, and goal alignment to strengthen our collective impact and further our work as partners for the betterment of American Indian families and children; and

WHEREAS, The land in present day known as Ramsey County is located on the ancestral and contemporary lands of the Dakota Oyate (Dakota Nation), and has been home to the American Indian people of Turtle Island since time immemorial, and without whom, the building of this county would not have been possible and holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance for its original stewards; and

WHEREAS, We recognize and honor the treaties made over a century ago by Tribal Nations and the United States Government that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares May 2026 as American Indian Month in Ramsey County in order to promote appreciation, healing, reconciliation, understanding, friendship and continued partnerships with the American Indian community; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners encourages all residents in the community to honor and celebrate the many American Indian Minnesotans and Ramsey County residents that remind us daily of our rich American Indian heritage.


Rafael Ortega, Board Chair, District 5


Tara Jebens-Singh, Commissioner, District 1


Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2


Garrison McMurtrey, Commissioner, District 3


Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4


Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6


Kelly Miller, Commissioner, District 7


Ling Becker, County Manager