

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Mao Heu Thao began her distinguished career 39 years ago, in 1986, as a Public Health Nurse in the Family Health Division of Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health, later serving on the International Health Team and ultimately becoming the Hmong Health Coordinator in the Community Engagement and Health Promotion Team within the Healthy Communities Division; and

WHEREAS, Mao has been a trail blazer in public health, dedicating 46 years to advancing health equity, developing culturally responsive care and forging partnerships among public and private health organizations, social services, schools and community leaders to eliminate health disparities in the Hmong community; and

WHEREAS, She made history in 1982 as the first Hmong refugee to return to Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand, where she addressed 40,000 refugees on behalf of the United Nations of High Commissioner for Refugees, dispelling misinformation about Western health practices and encouraging resettlement to the United States; and

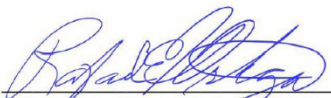
WHEREAS, Mao contributed to the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome research at Phanat Nikom refugee camp in 1990 and joined Saint Paul Mayor Kelly's delegation in 2003 to Wat Tham Krabok refugee camp to prepare for the final wave of Hmong resettlement in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Mao founded the Hmong Health Care Professionals Coalition and the Hmong Resource Group at Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health and pioneered culturally relevant health education through Hmong Health Talk Shows, on television and radio broadcast, and post 9/11 emergency Community Health Outreach programming; and

WHEREAS, Mao has served with distinction on the boards of the Women's Association of Hmong and Lao and Minors in Need of Resettlements, championing programs for elders, domestic violence prevention, and scholarships for young Hmong women pursuing higher education; Now, Therefore Be It

PROCLAIMED, Mao's legacy will continue to inspire future generations of public health professionals, community leaders, and advocates for justice and cultural understanding; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, do hereby honor and celebrate the retirement of Mao Heu Thao, expressing deep gratitude for her decades of service, her unwavering commitment to health equity, and her profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and families.



Rafael Ortega, Board Chair, District 5



Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



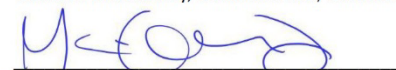
Kelly Miller, Commissioner, District 7



Tara Jebens-Singh, Commissioner, District 1



Garrison McMurtrey, Commissioner, District 3



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Ling Becker, County Manager