

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Karen families began arriving in Minnesota in the early 2000s as political refugees seeking asylum from the oppressive rule of the Burmese Military Dictatorship, and today Ramsey County is home to one of the largest Karen communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year, which was first officially recognized in 1938 (formally the 2677 year on the Karen calendar), is celebrated on the First Day of Pyathoe on the Lunar calendar, typically occurring at end of December or beginning of January; and

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year marks the end of harvest of one rice crop and the beginning of the next rice crop, and also marks the building of new homes; and

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year is the most recognized holiday in the Karen community, which includes the Karen Don dances, Karen bamboo dances, singing and plenty of feasting; and

WHEREAS, The Karen New Year helps to preserve Karen culture, traditions, relationships and trust among community members, it enables Karen people to feel pride in their heritage, and it creates an opportunity for Ramsey County communities to learn about and enjoy the Karen culture; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares January 13, 2021 as Karen New Year Day in Ramsey County; and Be It Further

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



Toni Carter, Board Chair, District 4



Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1



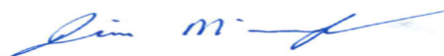
Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Trista MatasCastillo, Commissioner, District 3



Rafael E. Ortega, Commissioner, District 5



Jim McDonough, Commissioner, District 6



Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



Ryan T. O'Connor, County Manager