

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation declared freedom for enslaved people in Confederate states, yet many remained in bondage until June 19, 1865—when the last enslaved people in Texas were finally freed, marking the day we now recognize as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates the resilience, hope, and enduring struggle for freedom of African Americans and serves as a powerful reminder of the legacy of slavery and the continuing pursuit of racial justice; and

WHEREAS, In 1866, Black communities organized the first Juneteenth celebrations—featuring music, cultural food, and prayer—and today, Juneteenth is recognized nationwide thanks to generations of advocacy, including the work of Opal Lee widely known as the Grandmother of Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, founded in 1929 and named after educator and civil rights leader Hallie Quinn Brown, embodies the spirit of Juneteenth through its commitment to education, empowerment, cultural celebration, and civic leadership; and

WHEREAS, The community center has played a vital role in preserving and uplifting African American history, including hosting Juneteenth celebrations that honor the past while inspiring progress toward a more just and equitable future; and

WHEREAS, The continued celebration of Juneteenth—and the unwavering work of institutions like Hallie Q. Brown—remind us not only of the power of liberation, but of the responsibility to remember our history, honor those who came before us, and ensure such injustices are never repeated; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County acknowledges that white body supremacy exists in a racial hierarchy and recognizes that achieving freedom and equity for all requires acknowledging persistent systemic injustice and committing to ongoing work—through education, policy, and partnership—to dismantle systemic barriers and uplift communities; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2025, as “Juneteenth Freedom Day” in Ramsey County and call upon all residents to reflect on the historical and present-day fight for freedom and dignity; celebrate the cultural and civic contributions of African Americans; support organizations like the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center that advance racial equity and community strength; and commit to actions that foster justice, inclusion, and collective healing; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth Day in Ramsey County.



Rafael Ortega, Board Chair, District 5



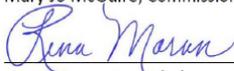
Tara Jebens-Singh, Commissioner, District 1



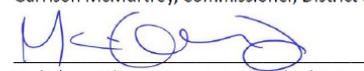
Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



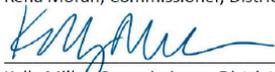
Garrison McMurtrey, Commissioner, District 3



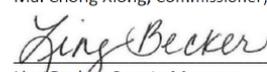
Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Kelly Miller, Commissioner, District 7



Ling Becker, County Manager