

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to honor the achievements, culture, and resilience of Black Americans and their contributions to history, society, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, Since its official recognition in 1986, Black History Month has served as a vital opportunity to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of African Americans, ensuring that their impact is preserved and celebrated; and

WHEREAS, The 2025 theme, “*African Americans in Labor*”, recognizes the essential role Black workers have played in shaping the U.S. economy, labor movements, and workplace protections while overcoming systemic discrimination and barriers; and

WHEREAS, From building the nation’s economy under enslavement to leading labor strikes, forming unions, and shaping policies that promote worker rights, African Americans have long been at the forefront of labor justice; and

WHEREAS, Former Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter made history in 2005 as the first African American county commissioner in Minnesota, championing workforce equity, economic development, and juvenile justice reform through initiatives such as the Ramsey County Workforce Innovation Board and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, ensuring that Black youth had access to opportunities rather than incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Former State Representative and current Ramsey County Commissioner Rena Moran, the second African American to serve on the board, continues this legacy by advocating for racial and economic equity, affordable housing, fair wages, and labor rights, ensuring that Black workers and families have access to opportunities and economic security; and

WHEREAS, The contributions of Black workers, labor leaders, and policymakers have been pivotal in advancing labor rights and securing economic justice while making workplaces more equitable for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month challenges us to reflect on this legacy and recommit to advancing equity in employment, economic empowerment, and social justice; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners recognizes February 2025 as Black History Month and honors the profound contributions of African Americans in labor, leadership, and economic justice; and Be It Further

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners encourages all Ramsey County residents and staff to reflect on Black workers’ contributions, engage in efforts to create a more inclusive workforce, and continue the fight for economic justice and opportunity for all.

  
Rafael Ortega, Commissioner, District 5

  
Tara Jebens-Singh, Commissioner, District 1

  
Mary Jo McGuire Commissioner, District 2

  
Rena Moran Commissioner, District 4

  
Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6

  
Kelly Miller, Commissioner, District 7

  
Ling Becker, County Manager