

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner, and that domestic abuse and all forms and systems of oppression must be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence involves physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse, intimidation and isolation, and happens to one in every three women in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence touches the lives of people of all ages, backgrounds, genders and gender identities, sexual orientations, spiritual beliefs and circumstances when a home becomes a place of hopelessness and terror, and leaves in its wake a myriad of loss throughout our community, including mental and physical injury, homelessness, substance use, impact on the entire community; and

WHEREAS, We voice compassion and pledge action for the families, friends, and communities that have experienced the anguish of domestic violence as 40 confirmed deaths were due to domestic violence in 2023; the highest number documented since 1989; of the 40 deaths, 26 women and three men in Minnesota were killed by a current or former intimate partner, and 11 bystanders lost their lives during a domestic violence incident; and

WHEREAS, We further voice our compassion and commitment for the 80 children, 47 of whom were minor children in Minnesota who lost a parent in this past year due to domestic violence; the numbers doubling from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is a recognized national leader for its groundbreaking response to domestic violence, and will continue its endless resolve to confront domestic violence at all levels and support victims and their children, and the efforts of our community-based advocacy programs, Public Health workers, County Attorney's Office, Community Corrections, Emergency Communications, and Sheriff Office; and

WHEREAS, We honor the pioneering work of community-based advocates who founded the nation's first shelter, have been instrumental in the creation of national models that reduce domestic violence and homicides, and have implemented culturally relevant approaches and responses; and

WHEREAS, As a county, we acknowledge that solutions to end domestic violence will only happen with the commitment of our entire community to ensure the safety of victims, and in working tirelessly with our community-based partners in realizing an equitable and violence-free community for all; Now, Therefore, Be It

PROCLAIMED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners declares October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Ramsey County.



Victoria Reinhardt, Commissioner, District 7



Nicole Frethem, Commissioner, District 1



Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, District 2



Rena Moran, Commissioner, District 4



Rafael Ortega, Commissioner, District 5



Mai Chong Xiong, Commissioner, District 6



Ling Becker, County Manager