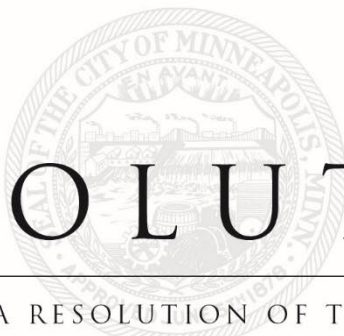




RESOLUTION

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

By: Osman, Payne, Wonsley, Rainville, Vetaw, Warren, Shaffer, Stevenson, Chavez, Chughtai, Whiting, Chowdhury, and Palmisano

RECOGNIZING THE 2026 SOMALI WEEK FESTIVAL

- Whereas: The Somali Week Festival is a vibrant celebration of Somali culture, heritage, and community, recognized as the largest event of its kind outside of Somalia, drawing thousands of participants to Minneapolis each year; and
- Whereas: This festival marks a significant occasion for the Somali diaspora, providing an opportunity to celebrate Somali Independence Day, reflecting on the history, struggles, and triumphs of Somalia since its independence on July 1, 1960; and
- Whereas: The Somali Week Festival showcases Somali art, music, dance, fashion, and cuisine, fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Somali culture among all residents of Minneapolis and promoting multiculturalism and unity; and
- Whereas: The mission of Somali Week is to promote cross-cultural exchange and deepen the community's understanding of the rich cultural heritage and significant contributions of the Somali American community; and
- Whereas: The Somali Week Festival aligns with Minneapolis's values of diversity, inclusion, and community celebration, reinforcing the city's commitment to recognizing and honoring the rich tapestry of cultures that constitute its population; and
- Whereas: Minneapolis is home to one of the largest Somali communities in North America, whose presence has enriched the cultural, economic, civic, and social life of our city for decades; and
- Whereas: The Somali community, through its resilience, leadership, and vibrant cultural expressions, continues to inspire and contribute to the ongoing story of Minneapolis, enriching our city through its culture, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement; and
- Whereas: The Somali American community has demonstrated extraordinary resilience, unity, and strength, continuing to celebrate its heritage, support one another, and contribute to the civic, economic, and social life of Minneapolis during a period that tested many immigrant and refugee communities; and
- Whereas: Somali Americans continue to help shape the future of Minneapolis through entrepreneurship, public service, education, healthcare, arts, philanthropy, and civic leadership, helping build a stronger city for future generations; and
- Whereas: Minneapolis is strengthened by the relationships built among neighbors from many cultures and backgrounds, demonstrating that our diversity remains one of our greatest sources of strength, belonging, and shared prosperity; and
- Whereas: Through the leadership of community organizers, volunteers, artists, businesses, cultural institutions, and community partners, the Somali Week Festival has grown into a city-wide celebration that welcomes participation from residents and visitors across Minnesota and beyond, fostering broader connections and relationships;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby recognize the Somali Week Festival 2026 as a significant cultural event in Minneapolis, celebrating the Somali community's resilience and contributions to our city and promoting the values of diversity, inclusion, and cross-cultural understanding; and further, that July 1, 2026, be recognized as "Somali Culture Day" in the City of Minneapolis, acknowledging the enduring spirit, leadership, and cultural richness of the Somali community.

Passed this the Twenty-Fifth Day of June 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk