



Resolution No. 2026R-321

City of Minneapolis

File No. 2026-00938

Author: Vetaw

Committee: None

Public Hearing: None

Passage: Jul 30, 2026

Publication:

AUG 08 2026

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE				
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Payne	X			
Osman	X			
Chughtai	X			
Wonsley				X
Rainville	X			
Vetaw	X			
Warren	X			
Shaffer	X			
Stevenson	X			
Chavez	X			
Whiting	X			
Chowdhury	X			
Palmisano	X			

MAYOR ACTION

☒ APPROVED☐ VETOED

MAYOR

JUL 31 2026

DATE

Certified an official action of the City Council

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

Presented to Mayor: JUL 31 2026

Received from Mayor: AUG 03 2026

Honoring and recognizing the Minneapolis Aquatennial 2026.

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis takes great pride in the enduring legacy and history of the Minneapolis Aquatennial, the Official Civic Celebration of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, later that year, on December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery, was ratified by Congress; and

Whereas, for 87 years, the Minneapolis Aquatennial has brought together residents, families, businesses, and visitors in celebration of the lakes, parks, culture, and communities that define Minneapolis, earning its cherished reputation as "The Best Days of Summer"; and

Whereas, originating in 1940, the Minneapolis Aquatennial has grown into one of Minnesota's most beloved civic traditions, welcoming generations of Minnesotans and visitors alike to participate in free and accessible community events, including: the Torchlight Parade, Milk Carton Boat Races, Sandcastle Competitions, River Rats Show, EDM Party, Broadway Sing-a-long, and many more across the city; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Aquatennial continues a proud tradition of women's leadership development by welcoming approximately 50 college women from communities across Minnesota to participate in a week-long professional development program focused on mentorship, leadership, and service; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Aquatennial showcases the resilience, compassion, and unity of Minneapolis, a city that, even in moments of uncertainty and hardship, continues to come together in support of neighbors, local businesses, families, and communities impacted by division, fear, and disruption; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis community has demonstrated extraordinary strength and solidarity by uplifting one another through moments of challenge, reaffirming the city's enduring values of inclusion, dignity, safety, and belonging for all people – something we come together to celebrate; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Aquatennial serves as a powerful reminder that celebration, public gathering, civic pride, and free community events strengthen the social fabric of Minneapolis and help foster connection, joy, and hope for future generations; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Aquatennial reflects the welcoming and inclusive character of Minneapolis by creating opportunities for residents and visitors of all backgrounds to gather in celebration of community, culture, and shared experiences; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis, in partnership with Hennepin County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, recognizes and celebrates the week of Juneteenth with activities to commemorate June 19, 1865, and lighting of the I-35W bridge; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes the Minneapolis Aquatennial as a treasured civic institution that strengthens community bonds, supports local businesses and organizations, highlights the vitality of downtown and neighborhoods across the city, and creates lasting memories for generations of residents and visitors;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby honor and recognize July 18 through July 25, 2026, as The Minneapolis Aquatennial Days and encourage all residents and visitors to join in celebrating the Best Days of Summer by participating in the many events, traditions, and community festivities that make the Minneapolis Aquatennial a cherished annual celebration.