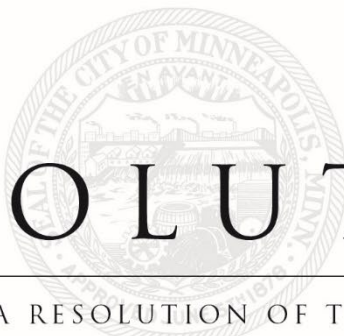




RESOLUTION

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

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

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: 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—

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.

Passed this the Thirtieth Day of July 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk