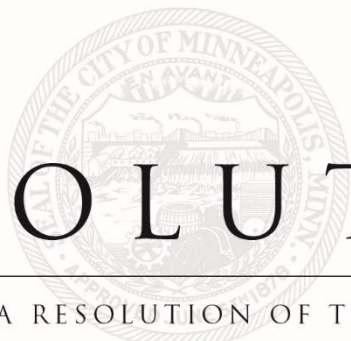




RESOLUTION

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

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

HONORING THE LEGACY OF KAREN CLARK

- Whereas: Karen Clark represented South Minneapolis in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1981 to 2019; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark was the first openly lesbian member of the Minnesota Legislature and became the longest-serving openly Lesbian state legislator in the United States, opening doors for generations of LGBTQ+ elected officials who followed; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark was a driving force behind the 1993 amendment to the Minnesota Human Rights Act banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and served as House chief author of the 2013 legislation that made marriage equality the law in Minnesota; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark championed environmental justice throughout her career, authoring the state’s workers’ and consumers’ right-to-know laws on toxic exposure and the first-of-its-kind legislation that requires new operations in the neighborhood to account for the “cumulative effects” of long-term pollution on residents; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark was a steadfast advocate for immigrant rights and access to health care throughout her legislative career, standing up for the dignity and full participation of Minnesota’s immigrant communities; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark dedicated the final years of her life to the East Phillips community, spending a decade fighting alongside neighbors for the East Phillips Indoor Urban Farm and the redevelopment of the Roof Depot site, and lived to see state funding secured for the project; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark’s advocacy embodied a lifelong commitment to the people of the East Phillips neighborhood, and to the principle that those most burdened by pollution and disinvestment deserve the loudest voice in their own future; and
- Whereas: Karen Clark passed from this life on June 30, 2026, leaving behind her partner Jacquelyn Zita and a legacy of service that touched countless lives across Minnesota; and
- Whereas: The City of Minneapolis mourns the passing of Karen Clark and joins her family, friends, colleagues, and the East Phillips community in remembrance on the occasion of her funeral;

—NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED—

That the Mayor and City Council do hereby declare September 18, 2026, as “Karen Clark Day” in the City of Minneapolis, in honor of her decades of service, her trailblazing legislative career, and her enduring legacy in the East Phillips community. Further, the City Council extends its deepest condolences to Karen Clark’s family, loved ones, Jacquelyn Zita, and the many communities she served, and expresses its gratitude for a life devoted to justice, equity, and the people of Minneapolis.

Passed this the Seventeenth Day of September 2026

Elliott Payne, President of the Council

Approved:

Jacob Frey, Mayor

Attest:

Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk