

City of Saint Paul

# Proclamation



*WHEREAS* Indigenous People of the area currently known as Minnesota hold a deep and abiding belief in the Creator and have maintained a powerful spiritual connection to their homeland; and

*WHEREAS;* during the years leading up to 1862, warriors of the Indigenous People defended their homeland in battle in order to provide for the basic needs of their families and community resulting in loss of life, suffering and hardship for the Indigenous People, the soldiers acting under the authority of the US government and the settlers moving into Minnesota; and

*WHEREAS;* Former Minnesota Governor Alexander Ramsey declared on September 9, 1862 that "the Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of the state" leading to the forced removal and banishment of the Indigenous People who surrendered and government-sanctioned bounties awarded on the scalps of fleeing or resisting Indigenous People; and

*WHEREAS;* on December 26, 1862 thirty eight Dakota warriors were hanged as murderers rather than war criminals in the largest mass execution in United States history at the order of President Abraham Lincoln and the remaining 361 prisoners were sent to segregated prison camps in other states; and

*WHEREAS;* the Indigenous women, children and elderly were held in a concentration camp at the base of Fort Snelling, separated from the men, before being exiled to reservations in neighboring states and Canada and later being stripped of their culture and traditions in boarding schools and subjected to white culture and religions; and

*WHEREAS;* all people are imbued by the Creator with inherent value and sacredness, and all United States citizens and members of Sovereign Nations are free to practice their traditions and ceremonies without fear of repercussions;

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that after one hundred and fifty years since the U.S – Dakota Conflict of 1862, the Year 2012 shall be declared the **Year of Healing in the City of Saint Paul** and in so declaring bring attention to the history and current situation of the Indigenous People for the purpose of breaking a vicious cycle of hatred and fostering a spirit of healing among all who call Minnesota their home.

*In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this First Day of March in the Year Two Thousand Twelve.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher B. Coleman".

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor