

# **P**roclamation

## **The Dred and Harriet Scott Freedom Day May 26, 2013**

- WHEREAS:** *from 1836 – 1840 Dred and Harriet Scott lived in slavery at Fort Snelling; and*
- WHEREAS:** *the Scotts sued for their freedom in 1847, arguing that their time spent in free states and territories, including Fort Snelling, entitled them to emancipation; and*
- WHEREAS:** *their legal battle ended in 1857 in one of the most infamous United States Supreme Court decisions in the history of our nation; and*
- WHEREAS:** *the United States Supreme Court found that persons brought as slaves from Africa and their descendants, whether free or not, were beings of an inferior order, and found that slaves were mere “articles of merchandise.” It held that Dred Scott was not a citizen of the United States and could not sue in federal court; and*
- WHEREAS:** *the decision enraged the anti-slavery movement, contributed to the start of the Civil War in 1861, and led to President Abraham Lincoln’s signing of the Emancipation Proclamation; and*
- WHEREAS:** *the decision was eventually overturned by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution; and*
- WHEREAS:** *on May 26, 1857 Dred and Harriet Scott were voluntarily freed; and*
- WHEREAS:** *pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 363A, it is the public policy of this state to secure freedom from discrimination for all persons in this state; and*
- WHEREAS:** *the City of Bloomington hereby honors Dred and Harriet Scott’s contribution to ending the unspeakable evil of slavery, and celebrates their legacy, which lives on in the freedom that we enjoy today and as inspiration in the ongoing struggle for human rights.*
- THEREFORE:** *Be it resolved that I, Gene Winstead, Mayor of the City of Bloomington, do hereby declare May 26 as:*

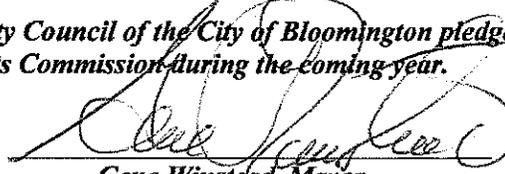
### **DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT FREEDOM DAY**

*in Bloomington and urge all citizens of Bloomington to join together to support this effort;*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Bloomington urge all government departments and agencies, organizations, schools, places of worship and individuals in our city to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, Dred and Harriet Scott Freedom Day.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** *that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Bloomington pledge to support the activities of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission during the coming year.*

*Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2013.*



Gene Winstead, Mayor  
City of Bloomington, MN