



WHEREAS, the month of April is recognized as Hmong Heritage Month and is a time to honor and celebrate the history of our Hmong community members; and

WHEREAS, Hmong people are an ethnically and culturally diverse people originally from southern China and throughout Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar; and

WHEREAS, Hmong forces assisted the American war effort during the Vietnam War, and when the United States withdrew from the region in the early 1970s, Hmong people faced harsh retribution from the communist Vietnamese and Lao governments for their involvement; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial to recognize and honor the sacrifices made by thousands of Hmong people who fought alongside Americans during the Vietnam War and who were ultimately forced to flee their native lands and resettle in communities throughout the United States, including Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Hmong Heritage Month has been recognized statewide since 2004 and is an opportunity for Wisconsinites to learn and reflect upon the many sacrifices made by Hmong people in service to our country and celebrate the rich contributions they have made to our culture, history, economy, and overall state identity; and

WHEREAS, We cannot speak about the Hmong people without recognizing their significant strength and resilience in light of increased racism and violence towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in recent years; and

WHEREAS, in Sun Prairie, we denounce all forms of racism and violence and celebrate our Hmong community members for their enrichment to this community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Sun Prairie is committed to living out our guiding principles of advancing equity, honoring our diverse identity, and creating an inclusive culture for all who seek to live, work, and play here.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Paul Esser, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor, on behalf of the City of Sun Prairie, hereby proclaim April 2023 as

Hmong Heritage Month

And encourage everyone to acknowledge and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of the Hmong people this month and beyond.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sun Prairie to be affixed on this the 18th day of April, 2023.
Paul Esser, Mayor