

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## PROCLAMATION

### Reaffirming Columbia Heights' Adoption of Minnesota's New State Flag and Seal

The old Minnesota state flag, in use since 1858, was designed around imagery and ideals captured in Mary Eastman's 1850 poem, which called for Native peoples to "give way" to "the white man's grasping hand," celebrating the displacement of Indigenous people from their homeland. That flag and its seal carried that legacy forward for over 160 years.

The City of Columbia Heights refuses to carry that legacy forward.

On May 11, 2024, Minnesota welcomed a new chapter in its history by adopting a new state flag and seal. The flag features a white eight-pointed star, representing the North Star, shining brightly against a dark blue night sky and light blue waters, reflecting our state's natural beauty and guiding spirit.

The redesigned state seal symbolizes our unity and inclusion. The outer circle contains 98 rectangular golden bars, representing the state's 87 counties and 11 federally recognized American Indian Tribes. The inner circle features symbols representing Minnesota: Wild rice, the official state grain, the common loon, the official state bird, a white four-pointed star representing the state motto "L'étoile du Nord," the phrase "Mni Sóta Makoce," Dakota for "Land of the sky tinted water," the original rendering of our state's name, and stylized pine trees and water representing natural areas across the state.

These changes are a significant step forward in acknowledging and rectifying past racial insensitivity, turning once-offensive symbols into representations that reflect our values of diversity and respect. More than symbolic, they demonstrate our commitment to building an inclusive community where everyone is seen, heard, and valued.

Some cities have chosen to reject the new flag and return to the old one. Columbia Heights is not one of those cities.

True progress requires more than just talk. It demands ongoing action, understanding, and dedication to creating equitable opportunities for all. The City of Columbia Heights proudly flies the new Minnesota state flag and stands firmly behind everything it represents.

The City of Columbia Heights extends heartfelt gratitude to the elected officials, artists, and all who contributed their ideas and passion to creating our new state flag. While we celebrate this milestone, our work is far from over. We must continue striving for justice, equity, and unity in all aspects of our society.

Together, we are moving forward, united in our vision for a brighter future.

I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of the City of Columbia Heights, proudly reaffirm our adoption of and unwavering commitment to the new Minnesota State Flag and Seal and all the values of justice, equity, inclusion, and unity that it represents.

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**Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor**  
**May 26, 2026**