



PROCLAMATION

Racial Covenant Awareness and Action Day

Discriminatory covenants were used from the early 1900s through the 1960s to prevent people of color and non-Christian individuals from buying or occupying property in certain areas, including in the City of Columbia Heights. These covenants were part of a deliberate system designed to promote residential segregation and perpetuate systemic inequities in housing access. The harm caused by these practices has left a legacy in our community with effects still evident in property values, mortgage eligibility, rental opportunities, and other aspects of community development.

The Mapping Prejudice Project has played a critical role in uncovering and documenting the extent of discriminatory covenants in the Twin Cities region, including within Anoka County, helping communities confront this history and better understand its ongoing impacts.

Over the past year, the City of Columbia Heights has taken meaningful steps to move beyond acknowledgment toward action by engaging in efforts to educate the public about racial covenants, examining local policies and practices through an equity lens, supporting fair housing initiatives, and strengthening partnerships with community organizations committed to advancing racial equity and inclusion.

The City recognizes that addressing the legacy of racial covenants requires sustained commitment, transparency, and continued collaboration to dismantle systemic barriers and ensure equitable access to housing and opportunity for all residents.

Now therefore, I, Amáda Márquez Simula Mayor of the City of Columbia Heights, do hereby proclaim February 9, 2026, as **Racial Covenant Awareness and Action Day** in Columbia Heights, and call upon residents, businesses, educators, and community partners to recommit to the ongoing work of advancing racial equity, inclusion, and justice in our community.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
February 9, 2026