Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, after civil war began in Liberia in 1989, tens of thousands of Liberians fled to the United States, many settling in Minneapolis and Minnesota; and*

***WHEREAS**, Deferred Enforced Departure, or DED is a discretionary decision made by the President of the United States to protect individuals from deportation and allow for permit employment in the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, President George W. Bush initially designated Liberians for DED in 2007, and DED extensions have been granted by Presidents William J. Clinton and Barack H. Obama; and*

***WHEREAS**, President Donald J. Trump, in extending DED through March 31,2019, indicated that would be the last DED extension for Liberians; and*

***WHEREAS**, termination of DED may leave an estimated 3,000 Liberians, some of whom reside in Minneapolis, at risk of deportation to Liberia; and*

***WHEREAS**, Minnesota is home to an estimated 30,000 Liberian residents, many of whom have made significant contributions to the cultural and economic vitality of the city of Minneapolis, including through raising families, starting businesses, and providing services in critical industries such as health care; and*

***WHEREAS,** ending DED without federal legislation in place to ensure Liberians have a pathway to permanent residence would cause severe and unnecessary injury to individuals, families, and residents of the city of Minneapolis; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota, religious and business leaders, and other community based organizations have advocated for Liberian Minnesotans at risk of deportation, including highlighting the need for an extension of DED and support for impacted individuals, including creation of a legal pathway to U.S. Permanent Residence;*

***NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jacob Frey, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2019 as*

DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE (DED) AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

Proclamation

Mayor of Minneapolis