

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center has been a pivotal organization providing a safe place for people to transcend barriers and develop their leadership talents for more than eight decades; and*

*WHEREAS: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center fosters the development of leaders, with alumni members representing a wealth of Trailblazers who have had significant impact; and*

*WHEREAS: These Trailblazers grew up at the Center and developed into courageous leaders and contributors; and*

*WHEREAS: These Trailblazers contribute an immeasurable amount of resources to strengthen our community through volunteer and philanthropic activities that benefit children and families; and*

*WHEREAS: These Trailblazers' accomplishments include becoming the first African American men and women to: Chair the Minneapolis Public School Board and run for the office of Mayor with major political party backing; be employed by Northwestern Bell; be hired as a teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools, be President of the Postal Workers Union, be founder of Let's Work Together; and Chair the Phyllis Wheatley Alumni Association. Other Trailblazers include the founder of the American Indian Movement and numerous business and community leaders; and*

*WHEREAS: These Trailblazers continue to influence the political, social, economic, business, labor, sports, entertainment, faith, military and educational arenas that benefit our entire community, state and nation; and*

*WHEREAS: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center was founded under the namesake of Trailblazer Phyllis Wheatley, the first African American to publish a book of poetry, in honor of her accomplishments, faith, courage and ambition; and this spirit has been embodied by the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center Alumni group; and*

*WHEREAS: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center has been recognized as a historically significant organization in Minnesota and is celebrated among the State's treasures by the Minnesota Historical Society and at the History Center's MN150 sesquicentennial exhibit;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, R.T. RYBAK, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, do hereby proclaim January 19, 2008 as:*

## PHYLLIS WHEATLEY COMMUNITY CENTER TRAILBLAZER DAY IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

*To honor how these Trailblazers, with the support of Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, have woven the fabric of our community, inspired youth, and are helping us Shape Tomorrow's Leaders Every Day.*



Mayor of Minneapolis

