

**2021 RES-350**  
**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2022 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides a deliberate opportunity to reflect on the common humanity underlying all people and to raise awareness and foster respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been living and working in Wisconsin since the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and records of their baptisms, marriages, and burials indicate that they were woven into the fabric of early life in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has recognized black history annually since February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,” by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, celebrating the ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, both enslaved and free people of African descent have participated in every aspect of America’s effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom and civil rights and have stories that are an inspiration to all citizens, that reflect the triumph of the human spirit and offer the hopes of everyday people to rise above both prejudice and circumstance and to build lives of dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, while acknowledging the work of these leaders, it is equally critical to appreciate, both past and present, the long list of contributions of our fellow residents, Black History Month gives Wisconsinites an occasion to recognize the significant influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in the areas of medicine, art, politics, human rights, education, sports, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, trailblazers in film and government recently passed, including Sidney Poitier who was an actor, activist, diplomat, and a groundbreaking influence in media history and was the first Black man to win an Academy Award for Best Actor; and Colin Luther Powell who was an American politician, statesman, diplomat, United States Army Officer, United States National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the first African American to serve as the United States Secretary of State; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden is committed to nominating the first woman of African descent or African American to the Supreme Court of the United States in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, violence against African American women and girls is part of our country’s history that continues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and addressing the root causes of such violence is essential to the health and livelihoods of families and communities throughout Dane County and Wisconsin.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2022 as Black History Month.

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Analiiese Eicher, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk