

**2023 RES-332**  
**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2023 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**, severe challenges to the bodily autonomy and physical safety of Black people continue to plague this nation as evinced by the heinous lynching of Tyre Nichols, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and so many other of our Black countrymen and women, particularly as such lynchings are often occasioned under the color of law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dane County Board of Supervisors pledges to do its utmost to advance policy initiatives that can affect the protection, engagement, uplifting and advancement of all peoples of the African diaspora.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2023 as Black History Month.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk