

2020 RES-078

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2020 IN DANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes the date that enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation, almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 in the United States of America, the legacy of slavery is felt daily by African Americans, and the promise of liberation has yet to be fulfilled, as evidenced by a lack of equal access to educational and economic opportunity, in challenged health outcomes, and, most critically, in disproportionate and sometimes life-threatening interaction with law enforcement and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, this Juneteenth provides an opportunity to highlight the contributions of African Americans to the United States; it is also an opportunity to unite the community in a positive celebration of culture through dance, music, storytelling, drama, and other visual presentations; and

WHEREAS, in these times of both the COVID-19 global pandemic, which is disproportionately impacting the Black community, and the repeated instances nationally of police-involved violence against Black men and women, Juneteenth offers an opportunity to begin to heal our local community; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of Juneteenth in Dane County and further commits to work continually to lead systemic change so that African Americans in our community can realize the freedom and equality first promised by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Analiese Eicher, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2020.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk