

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2024, 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 2024 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, evidenced by a lack of equal access to educational and economic opportunity, negative health outcomes, and, most critically, in disproportionate and sometimes life-threatening interactions 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 and is an opportunity to unite the community in a positive celebration of culture through dance, music, storytelling, drama, and other visual presentations; and

WHEREAS, there are many Black leaders in key government positions throughout Dane County, including Sheriff Calvin Barrett, Madison Chief of Police Shon Barnes, District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, Judge Everett Mitchell, Judge Nia Trammell, Judge Mario White, Representative Shelia Stubbs, Dane County Board of Supervisors Gray, Jackson, Kemp, and Kigeya, and Madison College President Jack Daniels; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Juneteenth as a day to reflect upon how we can create a better, more equitable future for all members of our community, Dane County has designated June 19th as a holiday for county employees; and

WHEREAS, Dane County employees are encouraged to make June 19th “a day on, not a day off” by volunteering, attending one of the many celebrations, supporting Black-owned businesses, advancing their knowledge and awareness of systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is one day of the year, but it serves as a reminder to us to celebrate and acknowledge African American culture, history, diversity, and contributions to our community every day of the year.

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.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2024.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk