

2020 RES-351
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2021 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 18th 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, people of African descent or African Americans with connections to Dane County and to Wisconsin have made significant contributions nationally including Vice President of the United States of America Kamala Devi Harris who lived in Madison as a child; voting rights advocate Stacey Yvonne Abrams who was born in Madison; and baseball legend and civil rights advocate Hank Aaron who played for the Milwaukee Braves; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2021 as Black History Month.

Analiese Eicher, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2021.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk