

2021 RES-054

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2021 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 2021 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, 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 Trannell, Judge Mario White, Representative/Supervisor Shelia Stubbs, Madison School Superintendent Carlton Jenkins, and Madison College President Jack Daniels, to name a few.

WHEREAS, recognizing Juneteenth is a day to reflect upon how we can serve to create a better, more equitable future for all members of our community, Dane County has – for the first time this year - designated June 19th as a holiday for county employees.

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