

2025 RES-042

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2025, IN DANE COUNTY

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

WHEREAS, 2025 in the United States marks the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth, a defining moment in American history symbolizing both the end of slavery and the unfulfilled promise of liberation—an unfulfilled promise that has caused African Americans to continue to endure barriers to education, economic opportunity, health care, and experience disproportionate and harmful interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, this Juneteenth in Dane County marks the 36th annual Juneteenth celebration, with the theme of “Black Resilience.” This celebration was co-founded by Annie Weatherby-Flowers and Mona Adams Winston, who provided space for community, reflection, and joy through music, storytelling, art, and cultural education. Juneteenth offers an opportunity to honor the contributions of African Americans to the United States and to unite the community in a joyful celebration of culture through dance, music, storytelling, drama, and other creative expression. We are all invited to celebrate and recognize the strength, culture, and contributions of the African American community here in Dane County; and

WHEREAS, there are many distinguished Black leaders in key government positions throughout Dane County, including Sherriff Calvin Barrett, District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, Judge Everett Mitchell, Judge Nia Trammell, Representative Shelia Stubbs, and current Dane County Supervisors Gray, Jackson, Kemp, and Kigeya; and

WHEREAS, recognizing Juneteenth is a day to reflect upon how we can collectively create a better, more equitable future for all members of our community, Dane County has designated June 19th as a holiday for all Dane 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 Juneteenth celebrations, supporting Black-owned businesses, and advancing their knowledge and awareness of systemic racism.

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 Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2025.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk