

**2024 RES-307**

**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 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**, 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**, 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**, Black History Month gives Wisconsinites and residents of Dane County a collective occasion to recognize the significant influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in the areas of medicine, art, music, science, politics, human rights, civil society, education, sports, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2025 Black History Month theme, *African Americans and Labor*, focuses on the many profound ways that work and working of all kinds—free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary—intersect with the collective experiences of Black people, and shape the lives, cultures, and histories of Black people and the societies in which we all live; and

**WHEREAS**, to combat the exploitation of Black labor, wage discrepancies, and employment discrimination based on race, sex, and gender, Black professionals (teachers, nurses, musicians, and lawyers, etc.) and occupations (steel workers, washerwomen, dock workers, sports, arts and sciences, etc.) organized for better working conditions and compensation, joining the ranks of union work and leadership to advocate for job security, basic rights, and wage increases; and

**WHEREAS**, 2025 marks the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids by labor organizer and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph, which was the first Black union to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor; and

**WHEREAS**, thoughtful consideration of the innumerable and indispensable contributions of Black workers—and of all peoples of the African diaspora—to our country and community has never been more critical as our nation faces renewed efforts to diminish and revoke civil rights and anti-discrimination laws in the workplace, government, and our communities in 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2025 as Black History Month.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk