

**2021 RES-324**

**HONORING FORMER DANE COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR R. RICHARD "DICK" WAGNER**

**WHEREAS**, R. Richard “Dick” Wagner, of Madison, passed away on Monday, December 13, 2021 at the age of 78; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick served as a member of the Dane County Board from 1980 until 1994, representing District 6, the near east side of the City of Madison; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick was the Chair of the Board from 1988-1992 and served on many boards, commissions, and committees including: Ways and Means Committee, Greenspace, Budget, Finance, Airport Commission, Regional Planning Commission, Public Protection and Judiciary Committee, Building Expansion Committee, Highway and Transportation Committee, Building Committee, Cultural Affairs Commission, Commuter Rail Study Committee, the Transport 2020 Committee, and was the first and only chair of the Dane County Regional Transit Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick, fueled by his passion for history, pursued a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Wisconsin – Madison; Dick dedicated his life to capturing and preserving history, he authored “DOA The Story: Four Decades of Wisconsin’s Department of Administration”, “We’ve Been Here All Along: Wisconsin’s Early Gay History”, “Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin’s Recent Gay History”, contributed to the anthology, “Education for Democracy: Renewing the Wisconsin Idea”, and recently started research for a new book on Dane County, while also having chaired the Madison Landmarks Commission, led the Historic Park Fund which created the Period Garden Park in Mansion Hill, lived in several Madison landmark homes, was a founding member of Historic Madison, Inc. and the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, and recently participated in the Dane County Board of Supervisors oral history project; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick was a pioneer of and champion of LGBTQ rights locally and nationally, was one of the first dozen openly gay officials in the nation, was a founding member of the National Association and Conference of Gay and Lesbian Public Officials (now the Victory Institute) in 1985, was a founding member and first co-chair of the New Harvest Foundation for LGBTQ charitable causes in the region, and served on the board of the AIDS Network and the board of Fair Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick was a devout public servant, a vital community advocate, a dynamic grass roots community organizer, a beloved mentor to former, current, and future community leaders, and a resolute social justice champion; and

**WHEREAS**, Dick was a cherished colleague, an adored neighbor, a dedicated community member, and the dearest of friend to so many.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby pays its respects to Dick and extends its sympathies to his loved ones. We join them in mourning the loss of an incredible person who gave so unselfishly to our community.

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Analiese Eicher, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk