

2023 RES-079

**RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2023 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 2023 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 Shelia Stubbs, Dane County Board of Supervisors Gray, Kigeya, and Pellebon, Madison School Superintendent Carlton Jenkins, and Madison College President Jack Daniels, to name a few; and

**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 designated June 19<sup>th</sup> as a holiday for county employees; and

**WHEREAS**, employees are encouraged to make June 19<sup>th</sup> “a day on, not a day off” and are encouraged to consider volunteering, attending one of the many celebrations, shopping in person or online in Black owned businesses, advancing their knowledge and awareness of systemic racism and most importantly, not letting the spirit of Juneteenth day be a one and done, and, rather, celebrate and acknowledge African American culture, history, diversity and their contributions to our community every day of the year.

**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.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisor

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk