

**2023 RES-317**  
**RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2024 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the United States has recognized Black history annually since February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month.” It was initiated by noted Harvard scholar and historian, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, as a dedicated time to honor and celebrate the achievements, contributions, and struggles of African Americans throughout history; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect intentionally on the common humanity underlying all people, to raise awareness and foster respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent, and to celebrate the ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our county, state, and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial to recognize and commemorate the resilience, leadership, and cultural richness of the African American community, as well as to promote understanding and appreciation of the diverse experiences and narratives within Black history; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been living and working in Wisconsin since the 18<sup>th</sup> 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**, 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

**WHEREAS**, Black history is an inspiration to all citizens, and reflects the triumph of the human spirit and the hopes of everyday people to rise above both prejudice and circumstance to build lives of dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month gives Wisconsinites an occasion to recognize the significant influence people of African heritage have had, and continue to have, in the areas of medicine, art, politics, human rights, literature, science, education, sports, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, severe challenges to the bodily autonomy and physical safety of Black people continue to plague this nation as evidenced by the heinous lynching of our Black countrymen and countrywomen, particularly as such lynchings are often occasioned under the color of law; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month serves as an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing fight for racial justice and equity, to amplify marginalized voices, and to confront the legacies of slavery, segregation, and systemic racism that continue to impact our society.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dane County Board of Supervisors pledges to do its utmost to advance policy initiatives that secure the protection, engagement, uplifting, and advancement of all peoples of the African diaspora, collaborate with local communities and organizations to highlight and uplift Black voices and perspectives, and provide resources and support initiatives that address racial inequities and promote diversity and inclusion.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2024 as Black History Month and reaffirms its commitment to honoring and celebrating the contributions and achievements of African Americans past and present.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk