

2019 RES-220
CONGRATULATING 2019 MISS BLACK USA TEKEMA BALENTINE

WHEREAS the Miss Black USA Organization is the first and oldest scholarship pageant for women of color, awarding over \$500,000 in scholarships with the mission to provide a national stage for its participants to showcase their unique talents and beauty and win scholarship opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Miss Black USA Organization empowers women to use their voice, own their power, and redefine what it means to be a compassionate, confident and beautiful Black woman today; and

WHEREAS Black women from across the United States competed for this title and were evaluated on their public speaking skills, personal fitness, talent, evening gown attire, and a question and answer session; and

WHEREAS Miss Black Wisconsin, TeKema Balentine, from Madison, Wisconsin won the 2019 Miss Black USA title; TeKema is a graduate of Madison East High School and is currently pursuing a nursing degree at Madison Area Technical College while coaching high school track and field and volunteering throughout the community; and

WHEREAS TeKema intends to use her voice to be a role model for the African-American community in Madison and to highlight successful African-American people in the area; TeKema aims to increase the number of African-American students in after-school and mentoring programs, factors she believes contributes to the achievement gap between white students and students of color.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby congratulates TeKema Balentine, 2019 Miss Black USA, on her victory; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to TeKema in recognition of her public service and dedication to Black women throughout Wisconsin and the United States.

Sharon Corrigan
Dane County Board Chair

Signed and sealed before me
this 5th day of September, 2019

Scott McDonell
Dane County Clerk