

**2024 RES-025**  
**RECOGNIZING MAY 2024 AS ASIAN AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER, AND DESI AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the history of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States and each May is dedicated to paying tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans who have enriched the history of the United States, Wisconsin, and Dane County; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of May was selected for Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

**WHEREAS**, despite facing significant challenges, including discrimination, prejudice, and systemic barriers, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans have demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and determination, inspiring generations with their unwavering commitment to building a better tomorrow; and

**WHEREAS**, Desi, a term to refer to those of South Asian descent, a pan-ethnic group of diverse people and communities rather than a nationally bounded category, is one of the fastest growing immigrant groups in the U.S., and the Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 1, 2024, Dane County employed 162 Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans and in 2023 145 Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Desi Americans were employed by Dane County, an increase of 12% from 2023; the County of Dane values the diversity, knowledge, and experience these employees bring to their positions and the service they provide to all residents of Dane County; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Brenda Yang, elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in April of 2022, is the first person of Hmong heritage to be elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors with Hmong Heritage month proceeding Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Heritage Month in April; and

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor Patrick Miles is Nisei, second-generation Japanese American, and is the first person of color and first Asian American to be elected Dane County Board Chair.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes May 2024 as Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American Heritage Month, and we reaffirm our commitment to fostering inclusivity, promoting diversity, and ensuring equity for all of our Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American communities, recognizing that our nation's strengths lies in its embrace of its many cultures and peoples.

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Chad Kemp, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisor

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

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Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk