

2025 RES-323

RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2026 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, February 1, 2026, marks the beginning of Black History Month, which has been observed in the United States since February 12, 1926—first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month”—by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, to celebrate ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides a deliberate opportunity to reflect on the common humanity underlying all people, and to raise awareness and foster respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Black History Month theme, “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” marks one hundred years of collective efforts to explore, document, and honor Black identity, history, pride, progress, and the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, both enslaved and free people of African descent have participated in every chapter of America’s history, including the struggle to secure, protect, and advance freedom and civil rights, and their stories reflect perseverance, courage, innovation, and the triumph of the human spirit in the face of injustice and adversity; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides Wisconsinites and residents of Dane County with a collective occasion to recognize and celebrate the profound and lasting influence people of African heritage have made, and continue to make, in medicine, art, music, science, politics, human rights, civil society, education, sports, economic development, and community leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes and commends the important work being advanced through the soon-to-be-opened Center for Black Excellence, a community-centered cultural space dedicated to promoting health and wellness, leadership and innovation, performing and visual arts, youth and family engagement, and the overall well-being of the Black community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to acknowledge Black history is a part of American history and to a commitment to continued learning, dialogue, equity, and action that strengthens community connections and advances inclusion for present and future generations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes February 2026 as Black History Month.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this
_____ day of _____, 2026.

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk