

2026 RES-062

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH ON JUNE 19, 2026, IN DANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth recognizes the date when enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation, almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a defining moment in American History symbolizing both the end of slavery and the unfulfilled promise of liberation, which has caused African Americans to continue to endure barriers to education, economic opportunity, and health care, and to experience disproportionate and harmful interactions with law enforcement and the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, in Dane County, the Juneteenth celebration was founded by Annie Weatherby-Flowers and co-led by her and Mona Adams Winston, two women who sought to create a space for Black and African American communities to reflect, celebrate, and experience joy through music, storytelling, art, and cultural education. Their vision has grown into annual community traditions, including the City-County Juneteenth flag raising and the Juneteenth parade; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth 2026 marks Dane County's 37th annual Juneteenth celebration, themed "Black Resilience: Celebrating Our History and Presence." Organized by the Kujichagulia Center for Self Determination, this year's observance included the 37th Annual Juneteenth Parade, held in Madison on June 20, 2026, and provided an opportunity to honor the contributions of African Americans to the United States while bringing the community together in a joyful celebration of culture through dance, music, storytelling, drama, and other forms of creative expression; and

WHEREAS, there are many Black leaders in key government positions throughout Dane County, including Sheriff Calvin Barrett, District Attorney Ismael Ozanne, Judge Everett Mitchell, Judge Nia Trammell, Representative Shelia Stubbs, and current Dane County Board of Supervisors members Barushok (Dist.1), Gray (Dist. 14), Obieze (Dist.16), Lewis (Dist. 22), Jackson (Dist. 26), Kemp (Dist. 32), and Dantzler (Dist.33); and

WHEREAS, recognizing Juneteenth is a day to reflect on how we can collectively create a better, more equitable future for all members of our community, Dane County has designated June 19th as a holiday for all Dane County employees; and

WHEREAS, Dane County employees are encouraged to make June 19th a "day on, not a day off" by volunteering, attending one of the many Juneteenth celebrations, supporting Black-owned businesses, and advancing their knowledge of systemic racism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of Juneteenth in Dane County and commits to continue fighting for systemic change so that Black and African-American members of our community can fully realize the freedom and equality first promised by the Emancipation Proclamation.

Patrick Miles, Chair
Dane County Board of Supervisors

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

Scott McDonell,
Dane County Clerk