

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

**TITLE:** Establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Process for the City of Madison

WHEREAS, the City of Madison acknowledges the fact that Madison is built upon the homelands of the Indigenous peoples of this region through the attempted eradication of Indigenous cultures; and,

WHEREAS, in the early 1800s, the US government forcibly removed members of the Ho-Chunk Nation across the city and the region from their land as colonizer lead miners and farmers moved to access the land for profit; and,

WHEREAS, in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, City did not prevent the destruction of the ethnically diverse Greenbush neighborhood in south Madison in a quest for “urban renewal”; and,

WHEREAS, Madison has been home to Black residents since at least 1839; and,

WHEREAS, Black celebrity chef Carson Gulley and his wife faced multiple and persistent instances of housing discrimination in Madison between the 1930s and the 1950s, finally being able to purchase land to build a home in the Crestwood development in 1953 after a contentious housing co-operative meeting to remove the restrictive covenant from the deed; and,

WHEREAS, even now, Madison is known as a “tale of two cities” due to its stark racial and ethnic disparities; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families Race to Equity Project published *Race to Equity: A Baseline Report on the State of Racial Disparities in Dane County*, which documented extreme disparities in many aspects of life; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2019, although Black residents make up 5.5% of the Dane County population, 45.9% of the individuals incarcerated in the Dane County Jail are Black; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2021 report by the JFA Institute, “about 10% of all blacks are arrested at least once a year in Dane County as opposed to 1% for all other racial and ethnic groups”; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2019, the ratio of the annual household income of the top 20% to the bottom 20% of households in Madison is 4.8 to 1; and,

WHEREAS, there are dramatic racial disparities in rates of income poverty in Madison, with 3.6% of the white population experiencing income poverty, in contrast to 22.8% of the Black population and 13.1% of the Latinx population; and,

WHEREAS, Madison has disparities in the rate of health insurance coverage by race and ethnicity, with 2.6 percent of white residents being uninsured, as compared to 19.7 percent of Indigenous, 9.3 percent of Black, 6 percent of Asian, and 13.3 percent of Latinx Madisonians; and,

WHEREAS, in January 2014, the City of Madison approved a resolution ([RES-14-00919](#)) recognizing the role of the Common Council in addressing institutionalized bias and proactively advancing racial equity;

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Madison approved a resolution ([RES-19-00731](#)) recognizing racism as a public health issue; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020, the City of Madison approved a resolution ([RES-20-00686](#)) proclaiming the second Monday in October to be Indigenous People's Day in Madison, Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City of Madison approved a resolution ([RES-21-00307](#)) designating May 5, 2021, as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Day in Madison, Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, that the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Madison do hereby affirm and proclaim Friday, November 26, 2021 as Ho-Chunk Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Madison establishes a Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Workgroup] chosen by the City of Madison Equal Opportunities Commission to research and make recommendations on how to create a truth and reconciliation process for Madison that engages BIPOC residents and organizations in a citywide effort to address and repair the harms perpetuated on BIPOC individuals and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Workgroup will be staffed by the Department of Civil Rights and include key stakeholders representing BIPOC community members and organizations that serve BIPOC communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Workgroup will undertake the following tasks:

- Meet at least bi/monthly
- Design and facilitate the implementation of a Truth and Reconciliation Process.
- Host a community forum/s to allow opportunities for BIPOC residents to voice their grievances around past injustices within the City of Madison.
- Facilitate a community forum/s with expert presenter/s on reconciliation and healing.
- Draft a report to submit to the City of Madison's Equal Opportunities Commission and then introduced to the Madison Common Council detailing policy recommendations that the City of Madison could implement to address past wrongs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Truth and Reconciliation Workgroup will provide a final report to the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Common Council by December 31<sup>st</sup> , 2022

**Sources:**

<https://isthmus.com/archive/people/remembering-the-greenbush/>

<https://www.bayviewfoundation.org/history>>

<https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/wmh/id/52341>

<https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/data-by-location#city/5548000>

<https://ho-chunknation.com/>

<https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/tribalnationswi/ho-chunk>

<https://madison365.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AHistoryofBlackMadison-1.pdf>

<https://dane.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9431716&GUID=41F71825-0B83-4BA7-9CE9-A1DD314DE28E>

<https://cjc.countyofdane.com/documents/Analysis-of-the-Dane-County-Jail-Population-JFA-Institute.pdf>

<http://racetoequity.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/WCCF-R2E-Report.pdf>

<https://apnews.com/article/wisconsin-us-news-race-and-ethnicity-madison-ap-top-news-4a58778caec479372cc5effd56237332>