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**2020 RES-127**  
**MAKING JUNETEENTH A PAID HOLIDAY**  
**FOR DANE COUNTY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

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Juneteenth, commemorated annually on June 19<sup>th</sup>, recognizes the date in 1865 that enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation, almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation (1863).

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Juneteenth has been celebrated since 1971 in Milwaukee, since 1990 in Madison, and the date was declared a Wisconsin State Holiday on December 1, 2009.

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It is a day to celebrate and honor the influence and the history of African Americans and to recognize the resilience, intellect, and the many contributions the African American community has made to Dane County, Wisconsin, and the United States.

Even in 2020 in the United States of America, the legacy of slavery is felt daily by African Americans, and the promise of liberation has yet to be fulfilled, as evidenced by a lack of equal access to educational and economic opportunity, in challenged health outcomes, and in disproportionate and sometimes life-threatening interaction with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Juneteenth is a day to reflect upon how we can serve to create a better, more equitable future for all members of our community, one where African Americans in Dane County, Wisconsin, and everywhere can realize the freedom and equality first promised by the Emancipation Proclamation over 150 years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County declares Juneteenth a paid holiday for Dane County Government employees.