



Legislation Text

File #: 67915, **Version:** 1

Fiscal Note

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Title

Honoring Resolution for Operation Fresh Start

Body

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start is celebrating 50 years serving more than 8,000 emerging adults in Dane County; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start was founded in 1970 by retired police officer Jack Osteraas, who saw young people being picked up on the streets, with nothing in place to help them move forward or succeed; and,

WHEREAS, with the help of several community sponsors, he started a program where young people would earn money building affordable homes during the day and attend classes at East High School at night; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start views every young person as an asset to our community and recognizes the barriers that can get in the way of that; and,

WHEREAS, through education, mentoring, and employment training, their end goal is to help youth achieve a family-sustaining career and/or go on to pursue higher education; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start graduates walk away with a high school diploma and driver's license - the top two most-required qualifications for employers - as well as other credentials to improve their resume - including certifications in First Aid/CPR, OSHA 10, and Department of Labor-recognized Pre-Apprenticeship Readiness Training; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start participants also give back to the community - building affordable homes for low-income families and completing conservation work in city and county parks; and,

WHEREAS, after program completion, staff continue to support graduates as they transition into post-secondary education and/or self-sustaining employment; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Fresh Start is working to ensure successful outcomes for current and future generations of low-income individuals and people of color in our community; and,

WHEREAS, their programming focuses on young adults from very low income families (73% of participants served in 2020) and people of color (80% of participants served in 2020).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Madison Common Council recognize that Operation Fresh Start has made an enormous and invaluable contribution to Madison and the many people from all walks of life who have benefited directly from being participants and project recipients, and express their gratitude and continued support.