

WHEREAS; National Black Business Month was founded in 2004 by Frederick E. Jordan Sr. and John William Templeton to recognize the vital contributions of Black-owned businesses throughout the country and to encourage their continued development and success; and

WHEREAS; the U.S. Department of Commerce-Minority Business Development Agency estimates that in 2018, there were 3.23 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, generating more than one million jobs and \$200 billion in revenue each year; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to thousands of Black-owned businesses, and many are certified through the Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program; and

WHEREAS; in addition to state efforts to support Black-owned businesses, the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce and the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin have hundreds of member businesses, all of which are united by their commitment to strengthening the Black business community through economic and civic development; and

WHEREAS; Black-owned businesses provide family-supporting jobs and careers to folks across Wisconsin and are essential for local communities, economies, and cultures to flourish; and

WHEREAS; promoting and supporting Black-owned businesses is a critical step in supporting representation, diversity, and inclusion across a multitude of industries and addressing the racial wealth gap that persists in the state and in the country, that is rooted in centuries of institutionalized forms of social and economic oppression; and

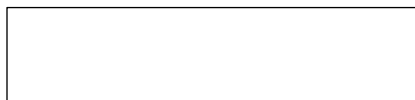
WHEREAS; this month and year-round, the state of Wisconsin encourages all Wisconsinites to frequent Black-owned businesses in their communities and joins all chambers of commerce, Business Improvement Districts, and business associations in the responsibility to work towards the inclusion and empowerment of Black-owned enterprises statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 2023 as

BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 21st day of July 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State