

WHEREAS; celebrated nationwide since 1976, Black History Month was borne out of the efforts of historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland to research and promote Black achievement in the early 1900s, as well as the subsequent, nationwide call for racial equality that defined the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and

WHEREAS; Black History Month encourages us to celebrate the countless scientific, artistic, economic, entrepreneurial, and intellectual contributions of Black Americans in our communities, and to recognize the collective struggle for full citizenship, equity, inclusion, and justice that Black Americans have endured throughout our nation’s history; and

WHEREAS; this year’s Black History Month theme is “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity,” aiming to explore and honor the Black family – and its many different definitions, variations, and complexities – as a foundational institution of African American life; and

WHEREAS; this Black History Month, while we reject the notion of the Black experience as monolithic, we acknowledge that the Black family has long been misunderstood, misrepresented, and disrespected, and we affirm our commitment to meaningful action to support Black families and communities throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; as we reflect on our collective past, and on the events of the past year, in particular, as violence against Black lives took national focus, we must lay bare that the crimes and struggles of our ancestors cannot be separated from our country’s modern history and that many of the injustices and inequities that Black Americans have historically endured have remained deeply entrenched in our country’s culture and institutions; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates and encourages Black excellence, condemns infringements upon the personal autonomy and constitutional rights of Black Wisconsinites and Black Americans, continues to demand justice, equity, and accountability for Black lives in our state and country, and honors the important work being done in our communities to create a more inclusive, equitable, and just state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim February 2021 as

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

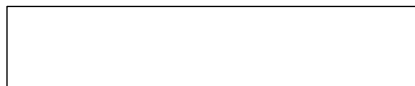
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

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 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State