

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 our country and to encourage their continued development and success; and

WHEREAS; the United States Minority Business Development Agency estimates that there are 2.6 million Black-owned businesses in the United States, generating approximately \$150 billion each year; and

WHEREAS; our state is home to thousands of Black-owned businesses, more than 200 of which are members of the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce and more than 400 of which are members of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin; and

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

WHEREAS; promoting and supporting Black-owned businesses is a critical step in addressing the racial wealth gap that persists in our state and in our country, rooted in centuries of slavery, segregation, redlining, and other institutionalized forms of social and economic oppression; and

WHEREAS; as Wisconsin continues to bounce back from the unprecedented economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting Black-owned businesses—and small businesses, in particular—has never been more important; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 2021 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 4th day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State