

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 U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency estimates that there are 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; our state is home to thousands of Black-owned businesses, currently has more than 600 minority owned businesses certified through the Wisconsin Supplier Diversity Program, and invested a record \$192 million in diverse business suppliers statewide in 2021; 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 in our state 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 culture to flourish; and

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

WHEREAS; as Wisconsin continues to bounce back from the unprecedented economic effects of the coronavirus 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 2022 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 29th day of July 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State