

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS; In 2015, the United States House of Representatives introduced and passed HR 371 establishing the month of September as National African Immigrant Heritage Month “to celebrate the great contributions of Americans of African immigrant heritage in the United States who have enriched the history of the Nation” during the administration of Barack Hussein Obama the 44th President of the United States and a person of Kenyan descent; and

WHEREAS; In establishing September as National African Immigrant Heritage Month, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized that “raising awareness about African immigrant heritage is crucial to effectively fighting disparities within the greater Black population in the American narrative and is essential to building a stronger community and a stronger America”; and

WHEREAS; immigrants of African Heritage are residents in every state and are a diverse group of more than 45 distinct ethnicities with more than 500 language dialects from all regions of Africa. Immigrants of African Heritage contribute to American life through military service, healthcare, arts, education, community service, and public policy; and

WHEREAS; the People of African descent trace their heritage to several great empires that existed throughout the length and breadth of the continent. The various empires, through their structured systems of government impacted, and influenced world civilizations; and

WHEREAS; the People of African descent in the City of Madison can be traced to the 18th century. More recent diasporans from the continent grew significantly in the 1960s thanks to the various African Country governments and non-governmental scholarships that afforded many students from Africa to study at UW-Madison and acquired skills to lead their countries with notable alumni such as the first elected female President in Africa, Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; Dr. Florence Chenoweth first, female Agriculture Minister in Africa; and

WHEREAS; generations of People of African descent have called the City of Madison home, working to achieve success in business, academia, city and state governments, and promoting the City of Madison, Dane County, and the State of Wisconsin in their careers as jurists, professors, engineers, doctors, pharmacists, elected officials in all branches of city and state governments, etc.; and

WHEREAS; the African community in Madison and Dane County has, for some thirty years, the aspiration of establishing and managing a physical space that will be a welcoming and culturally conducive home for the very diverse African community and people of African ancestry for the purpose of fostering a sense of social cohesion. This aspiration resulted in the establishment of the budding African Center for Community Development, Inc. which strives to partner with public programs and pursue causes that promote the social and economic development of immigrants and low-income households; and

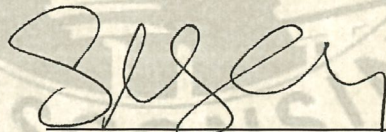
WHEREAS; Africa Fest, an event organized in Madison every year for the past two decades provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions of people of African descent to our City of Madison and Dane County; and

WHEREAS; this African Immigrant Heritage Month brings together all groups of African descent and aims to strengthen the ancestral bond between African diasporans, African Americans, and Afro-Caribbeans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of the City of Madison, Wisconsin do hereby proclaim the month of **September 2022**, as

National African Immigrant Heritage Month

in the City of Madison, Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all residents of our city.



Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway

Signed and sealed this 21st day of September, 2022 at City Hall

