

Richland County Rules & Resolutions Committee

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Celebrating Black History Month

Department	n/a (County Board)	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	2/4/21	Action Needed:	Resolution
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Committee Structure, Section D
Date submitted:	2/1/21	Referred by:	None

Recommendation and/or action language:

Recommend a motion, to present a resolution to the County Board celebrating Black History Month.

Background:

February is Black History Month, an annual observance remembering important people and events in the history of African Americans. Many residents of African descent have called Richland County their home. The Richland County History Room has researched two early residents including:

- Benjamin Butts – lived in Richland Center as a teenager after the Civil War. He was born as a slave, and after living in Richland Center, moved to Madison. There he owned a barber shop serving many governors. He was also the only black person on staff in the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1877. In 1918, his son Leo Butts became the first black football player for the University of Wisconsin Badgers.
- Miller Bowler – was a barber in Richland Center during the late 1800's and early 1900's and had a daughter and grandchildren.

A Resolution Celebrating Black History Month

WHEREAS Black History Month has been celebrated across the country since the 1970's, when President Gerald Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," and

WHEREAS African Americans have struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society, and

WHEREAS people of African descent have called Richland County home since the 1860's, including early residents Benjamin Butts and Miller Bowler, and

WHEREAS the Richland County History Room educates residents about the history of our county, including African Americans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Richland County Board of Supervisors that the County Board hereby celebrates Black History Month, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board encourages residents to learn about and embrace the historical contributions of African Americans in our county, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

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Attachments and References:

Attachment A: Early Residents

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)