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RESOLUTION: Request Sheriff to Read the Declaration of Independence on the Courthouse Steps on July 4th of Each Year

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Continental Congress, by a Declaration of Independence, dated July 4, 1776, declared the inhabitants of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, were no longer colonial subjects to be exploited arbitrarily by servants of the King and Parliament of Great Britain, but now were free citizens of their own territories, and that free citizens should constitute the governments for those territories; and

WHEREAS, the Continental Congress provided that same day, by orders of their House, that their Declaration should be proclaimed aloud and published to the free citizens of the territories represented in their Congress; and

WHEREAS, responsible citizens were notified of the Declaration by sheriffs who proclaimed it on the courthouse steps, by clergymen who read it from their pulpits, and by printers who printed it in their gazettes; and

WHEREAS, the Continental Congress thus initiated a process that has created the Constitutions and state governments of our Union including the Constitution and government of the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby requests the Winnebago County Sheriff to read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Winnebago County Courthouse at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of July 4th each year as this was the custom in the early history of our country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that we ask the Winnebago County Sheriff to read the document without further comment or speech. This event is intended for those present to hear the words of the Declaration as we begin to celebrate our Day of Independence.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact.

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JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by:

Committee Vote: 5-0

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Vote Required for Passage: Majority of Those Present

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this day of , 2022.

Jonathan D. Doemel Winnebago County Executive

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