



## 2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

March 16, 2021 - Introduced by Senators JOHNSON, CARPENTER, SMITH, AGARD, WIRCH, RINGHAND, ERPENBACH, ROYS and LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives STUBBS, BOWEN, HAYWOOD, L. MYERS, BALDEH, DRAKE, MOORE OMOKUNDE, SHANKLAND, MILROY, HEBL, S. RODRIGUEZ, ANDRACA, SNODGRASS, OHNSTAD, VRUWINK, POPE, ORTIZ-VELEZ, DOYLE, HESSELBEIN, NEUBAUER, SUBECK, HONG, CABRERA, SPREITZER, SHELTON, ANDERSON, RIEMER, GOYKE, VINING, BROSTOFF, CONLEY, MCGUIRE and EMERSON. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming February 2021 as Black History Month and honoring past  
2             and current black legislators.

3             Whereas, Black History Month provides a deliberate opportunity to reflect on  
4     the common humanity underlying all people and to raise awareness and foster  
5     respect for the heritage and contributions of people of African descent; and

6             Whereas, this year marks over 400 years since the arrival of enslaved Africans  
7     in Virginia. The existence of Africans in North America can be traced back to 1525,  
8     and through 1866 the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade is estimated to have ensnared  
9     more than 12 million African people, with an estimated 10 million surviving the  
10    unconscionable Middle Passage, landing in North America, the Caribbean, and  
11    South America; and

12            Whereas, Wisconsin history first references African descendants in a speech  
13    given in 1725 by a chief of the Illinois Indians, in which he said, “a negro belonging  
14    to Monsieur de Boisbriant” at Green Bay; and

1           Whereas, the United States has recognized black history annually since  
2 February 12, 1926, first as “Negro History Week” and later as “Black History Month,”  
3 by noted Harvard scholar and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson, celebrating the  
4 ethnic and racial diversity that enriches and strengthens our nation; and

5           Whereas, both enslaved and free people of African descent have participated in  
6 every aspect of America’s effort to secure, protect, and advance the cause of freedom  
7 and civil rights, and have stories that are an inspiration to all citizens, that reflect  
8 the triumph of the human spirit, and offer the hopes of everyday people to rise above  
9 both prejudice and circumstance and to build lives of dignity; and

10           Whereas, people of African descent or African Americans have made  
11 measurable differences in their respective industries, such as:

#### 12                                   **PROFESSIONAL TRAILBLAZERS**

13           **Naomi Carter**—first African American nurse in Madison;

14           **Grant Gordon**—first African American principal in Milwaukee and is active  
15 in the NAACP;

16           **Dr. Kwasi Obeng**—first African American to serve as chief of staff for the  
17 Madison Common Council;

18           **Judson Walter Minor Jr.**—first Black police officer to serve in the Milwaukee  
19 Police Department;

20           **Vernice E Chenault Gallimore**—first Black police woman to serve in the  
21 Milwaukee Police Department;

#### 22                                   **COMMUNITY LEADERS**

23           **Linda Hoskins**—former NAACP of Madison president;

24           **Sabrina Madison**—Black Women’s Wellness pioneer of change in Black  
25 Women’s Health and Black Women’s Leadership Development;

1           **John Givens III**—NAACP Youth Council advisor and chair of the Milwaukee  
2 Council on Racial Equality;

3           **Ali Muldrow**—Madison School Board member;

4           **Torre Johnson Sr.**—founder of X-Men United and community and youth  
5 advocate;

6           **Gab Taylor**—cofounder of Program the Parks and member of Standing Up for  
7 Racial Justice MKE;

8           **Amani Latimer Burris**—small business owner and journalist;

9           **Detria Hassel**—former Health Committee chair, NAACP of Madison;

#### 10   **ACTIVISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

11           **Khalil Coleman**—law enforcement reform activist, founder of CLTC, and  
12 author;

13           **Vaun Mayes**—Milwaukee community activist and founder of Parks MKE, a  
14 nonprofit organization;

15           **The People’s Revolution**—Black Lives Matter and government  
16 accountability organization; a global network that builds power to bring justice,  
17 healing, and freedom to Black people across the globe, whose activism includes  
18 marching for over 250 consecutive days, the most since the civil rights and fair  
19 housing movements of the 1960s;

20           **Tory Lowe**—Wisconsin community activist and member of the Speaker’s Task  
21 Force on Racial Disparities;

22           **Tracey Dent**—activist, Coalition Against Hate, and CEO of the Peace for  
23 Change Alliance;

24           **Rebecca Burrell**—Wisconsin community activist and member of the  
25 Speaker’s Task Force on Racial Disparities;

1 **Mattie Reese**—community activist;

2 **Sadie Pearson**—grassroots community activist;

3 **ATHLETE**

4 **Henry Louis “Hank” Aaron**—professional baseball player for the Milwaukee  
5 Braves and Brewers;

6 **RELIGIOUS LEADER**

7 **Dr. Apostle Bishop Godfrey A. Stubbs**—Senior Pastor of End Times  
8 Ministries International;

9 **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

10 **Vice President Kamala Devi Harris**—first woman and African American  
11 vice president of the United States;

12 **Stacey Yvonne Abrams**—American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist,  
13 and author who served in the Georgia House of Representatives;

14 **VICTIMS AND FAMILIES OF POLICE BRUTALITY**

15 **Jacob Blake Jr., Jacob Blake Sr., and Justin Blake**—a Black father of  
16 three who was shot in the back seven times by a Kenosha police officer in front of his  
17 children, and his father and uncle, who have taken on public advocacy roles for police  
18 reform;

19 **Tony Robinson**—an unarmed 19-year-old Madison young Black man who  
20 was killed by Madison police during a “check person” call placed by his concerned  
21 friends and bystanders;

22 **Alvin Cole**—a 17-year-old Black teenager who was shot and killed by  
23 Wauwatosa police while on his hands and knees;

24 **Sylville Smith**—a 23-year-old Black father of one who was shot in the back  
25 and killed by Milwaukee police following a traffic stop for “suspicious behavior”;

