



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2nd AMENDED AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Committee Members: Kurt Gibbs Chair; Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair; Matt Bootz; Tim Buttke; Randy Fifrick; Sara Guild, Jacob Langenhahn, Alyson Leahy, John Robinson, E.J. Stark

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Executive Committee Mission Statement: *The Executive Committee of the Marathon County Board exists for the purpose of implementing the County's Strategic Plan by coordinating policy formation among the Committees, and providing leadership for all County Board policies through supervision of Administrative staff.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Executive Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

1-408-418-9388. Access Code: 146 159 7938

No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**
3. **Approval of the January 26, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action**
 - A. Survey Results Presentation by Former Deputy Administrator Deb Hager – Potential Improvements and Recommendations for the Board
 - B. Marathon County serving as a Regional Vaccination Site
 - C. **Consideration of Response to PPA Farm City Dinner Advertisement**
 - D. **Standing Committee meeting calendar invitations**
 1. **Should staff send WebEx calendar invitations to all County Board members as default or upon request of non-committee members**
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**
 - A. Resolution To Adopt A Residential Anti-Displacement And Relocation Assistance Plan
 - B. Authorizing Resolution to Submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application
 - C. **Resolution Celebrating Black History Month**
 - D. **Discuss Redistricting in light of Delayed Census Data**
 - E. The Executive Committee may consider a Motion to Go into Closed Session pursuant to §19.85(1) (c) Wis. Stats. to consider performance evaluation data of a public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, namely: the County Administrator. **[Roll Call Vote Suggested]**
 - F. Motion to Return to Open Session [Roll Call Vote not necessary]
 - G. Possible Announcements or Action Resulting from Closed Session

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items

- Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion and educational presentations for the County Board.
- Next Meeting: **Thursday, March 11 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Courthouse Assembly Room

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

***Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 one business day before the meeting.**

SIGNED /s/ Kurt Gibbs

Presiding Officer or Designee

FAXED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
FAXED TO: Other Media Groups
FAXED BY: T. Ranallo
FAXED _____
DATE: _____
FAXED TIME: _____

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: T. Ranallo
DATE: _____
TIME: _____



MARATHON COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date & Time of Meeting: **Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: Courthouse Assembly Room, B-105, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Attendance:	Present	Absent	Vice-Chairs
Kurt Gibbs, Chair	X		
Craig McEwen, Vice-Chair	X		
Matt Bootz		EX	Brent Jacobson
Tim Buttke	W		Michelle Van Krey
Randy Fifrick		EX	Sandi Cihlar
Sara Guild	W		Ka Lo
Jacob Langenhahn	W		
Alyson Leahy	W		
John Robinson	W		
E J Stark	W		

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Scott Corbett

Web/Phone: Vicki Tylka, William Harris

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kurt Gibbs at 6:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment (15 Minutes)

3. MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY STARK, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 14, 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTION THAT SUPERVISOR LANGENHAHN HAD REQUESTED, AND BEEN GRANTED, AN ABSTENTION FROM ITEM 5.E., AND THAT SUPERVISOR HARRIS WAS PRESENT. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action

A. CDBG-CV Program Funds Application

1) Resolution to Approve Community Development Block Grant Citizen Engagement Plan

Discussion:

Supervisor Robinson indicates that he understands that the word "municipality" in the final sentence of the document should be understood as referring to the "county."

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY LEAHY TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

It will be discussed at the following county board meeting tonight.

5. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items

- Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Courthouse Assembly Room

6. Announcements - None

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY BUTTKE; SECOND BY STARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

County Board Leadership Interview Responses 9/8/20

The County Board Taskforce decided to interview County Board leadership to determine what, if any, survey questions be directed to all County Board supervisors as a part of the taskforce's deliberation regarding recommendations of County Board size. Interviews were conducted in late August and early September. All individual responses are confidential. The results reported below are a thematic analysis of the responses.

Demographics

- 1. Are you currently employed? Full Time? Part Time? Self Employed?*
Nine supervisors are employed full time. Two of the nine are self-employed. Four are not currently employed.
- 2. Do you hold any other elected office?*
Four hold other elected offices (3-local municipal government, 1-school board)
- 3. How long have you been a County Board Supervisor?*
The average number of years on County Board is over seven years. The range is from less than a year to 22 years.
- 4. How long have you been either a Chair or Vice Chair of a Committee/County Board?*
The average number of years in Board leadership is a little over 4fouryears with the range being from less than a year to ten years.

Time Commitment

- 1. Thinking about the time you spend in County Board meetings, committee meetings, preparation for meetings, constituent work, local government communications, and other County activities, what is the average amount of time you spend in a month on County Board related activities?*
The average reported a little over 40 hours per month. The range is from ten to 100+ hours per month. The most frequently reported was 10 to 15 hours per month (four responses) 3 supervisors reporting 20 to 25 hours per month and 3 more 35 to 40 hours per month.
- 2. If given the opportunity would you spend more or less time on County activities? Why?*
Nine of thirteen reported that they would like to spend more time on County Board activity. Most cited work-life balance as the reason why they can't do more at present.

-28% of the reasons for wanting to spend more time was the desire to have more time to research issues that are in more need of attention.

-25% of responses would like to spend more time on education of supervisors and the Board.

-8% would spend more time in preparation.

County Board

1. *From your perspective, thinking about County Board, what works well?*

-24% of responses stated that the Committee structure works well for County Board, especially given the complexity and diversity of issues.

-24% cited interpersonal relationships as a part of what works well. Their perceptions are that the Board works well together, trust each other, are respectful and minimize interpersonal conflict

-15% cited administrative staff. They trust staff to provide the background on issues.

2. *In the spirit of continuous improvement from your perspective, thinking about County Board, what would you suggest to improve the effectiveness of County Board?*

-26% of responses expressed concern about increasing partisan in County Board deliberation and a lessening of a collegial approach to discussion and deliberation

-15% expressed a desire to see County Board focus on County priorities and the strategic plan

-13% desire improvement in Board communication this includes better Information about what is being worked on and what is emerging, hot button items, need for someone who is a professional communicating on behalf of the Board. Also, there is a desire to have more digital access to all County committee meetings

-10% felt that further education and understanding of the difference between policy governance and operations and the appropriate role of County Board and supervisors.

Other improvements mentioned were more/better mentoring and onboarding of supervisors, investment in supervisor development, staff that is employed by the Board (not a part of administration) and the lack of respect of committee work.

Committee

1. *From your perspective, thinking about the Committee(s) you serve on, what works well?*

-20% of responses mention that meetings are well run, including agenda setting, participation by everyone, civil conversation

-7% cited the expertise of committees

-7% cited the ability to handle complex issues in a deliberate way, to better understand the nuances of issues and decisions

-5% cited the linking of committee work to the strategic plan

-5% cited the ability to get to know other supervisors especially those who are from other parts of the County

2. *In the spirit of continuous improvement from your perspective, thinking about your Committee work, what would you suggest to improve the effectiveness of Committees?*

-17% of responses addressed education of committee members regarding policy governance versus operations, onboarding by County Board leadership with assistance of staff (not conducted or led by staff), better understanding of the relationship of committees, sub committees, etc.

-10% expressed concern that committee work is driven by staff rather than County Board

-6% expressed that supervisors should respect and trust committee process

-6% felt there was a need for more involvement and engagement of committee members

-6% expressed concerns about the Rules Review process and the lack of input from current committees about potential changes to committees and responsibilities

-6% expressed the need for more transparency of committee work

3. *How satisfied are you with your current Committee appointments? Why?*

Ten respondents were satisfied with their current committee appointments.

-25% of responses indicated that current committee assignments were in areas of their interest

-12% felt meetings were run efficiently

-12% felt current committee assignments fit their work-life balance

-12% saw committee work as an opportunity for growth and learning

Reasons for dissatisfaction were poor attendance by supervisors and meetings going too long.

Supervisor

1. *In your time as a Supervisor what is your most significant contribution to County Board?*

-20% of responses mentioned bring a unique perspective (rural, younger, employed, female, minority, etc.)

-15% cited work on specific issues

-10% indicated just showing up, being active and engaged

-6% cited policy development

2. *In your time as a Supervisor what is your most significant contribution to Committee work?*

-18% cited bringing the unique perspective (referenced above)

-18% cited work on specific issues

-9% work with local officials

-9% the opportunity to lead

3. *What talents do you have that we are not currently tapping into?*

-Six out of 13 felt that their talents were being tapped into

-11% expressed the desire to better utilize their professional expertise

-11% expressed desire to work on issues of interest to them

4. *What one change to County Board/Committee would you suggest that would help you be more effective?*

-15% of responses recommended more investment in the development of supervisors (education and mentoring)

-10% increased/better communication of emerging issues and issues being worked on by committees

-7% expressed a desire to eliminate cross committee work

-7% want to develop ways to fast track issues

-7% want to streamline work through multiple committees

-5% see better preparation by supervisors for meetings

-5% would like all committee meetings taped and available online to allow the ability to hear and better understand committee's deliberation

-5% would like County Board supervisors to have a better understanding of policy governance versus operations

Summary

Prevalent themes were as follows:

1. Collegial versus political approach to County Board/Committee work
2. Investment in County Board supervisor education and development
3. Better understanding of policy governance versus operations
4. Increased transparency and accessibility to Committee discussion and deliberation
5. Improved communication with supervisors and the public about issues, status of policy development, hot button issues, etc.
6. Respect and trust in committee process

Meet Our Partner Members

Platinum Members



Gold Members



Leon Woller



Mosinee Wausau Thorp Antigo Waubesa



Silver Members

- Riesterer and Schnell
- VanDerGeest Dairy
- Marathon Cheese Corp.
- County Materials Corp.
- Marathon County Ag Society
- CoVantage Credit Union
- Merrill Equipment Company
- Heil Ginseng
- TC Reds

89th Annual Farm City Dinner Reservation

Tickets: \$30 per person or
\$200 for 8 or \$250 for 10

Make checks payable and return to:
Partnership for Progressive Agriculture
200 Washington Street, Suite 120B
Wausau, WI 54403

(Reservations due by February 25, 2021 Tickets will be mailed.)

Contact Samantha with questions at 715-581-7778
or email marathonppa@gmail.com

Name or Business Name: _____ Total number of tickets requested: _____

Address: _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Email: _____



*Partnership for Progressive Agriculture
cordially invites you to the
2021 Farm City Dinner*

Thursday, March 11, 2021 Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center

1100 Imperial Ave. | Rothschild, WI 54474

Join us for an evening of socializing, acknowledgement of achievements in the agriculture community, and support of future agriculture advocacy with exciting raffles. Enjoy a selection of locally sourced food selections and sundae dessert bar!

**5:30 Cash Bar & Social Hour Begins
6:00-7:30 Food Stations Open
7:30 Program Begins**

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

WHEREAS, Marathon County seeks to obtain Community Development Block Grant Funds through the State of Wisconsin’s Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus grant program; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Community Development Block Grant program is the development of viable communities through the provision of affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and the expansion of economic opportunities, principally for the benefit of persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Community Development Block Grant program is consistent with the Marathon County Strategic Plan and its priority objectives; and

WHEREAS, an eligibility requirement for a municipality to receive grant funds through the Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus grant program is the preparation and adoption of a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, created pursuant to the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, is a written plan that outlines the steps the County will take to minimize direct and indirect displacement of persons from their homes by adopting specific policies and pursuing specific actions in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the goal of a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan is to provide guidance to Marathon County government when distributing grant funds to ensure that grant-related activities do not lead to the displacement or relocation of county residents; and

WHEREAS, Marathon County has developed the attached Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan in conjunction with the County’s Community Development Block Grant Application; and

WHEREAS, the attached Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan would provide direction for County Government in its efforts to minimize displacement of county residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby resolve as follows:

To adopt the attached Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County Administration is authorized to take steps to effectuate the goals of the attached Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan.

Dated the ____ day of _____, 2021.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fiscal Impact: None. Any costs associated with the implementation of the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan would be funded through state and federal grant funds.

Marathon County Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan

WISCONSIN RESIDENTIAL ANTIDISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR CDBG PROGRAMS

This Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan (RARAP) is prepared by the County of Marathon in accordance with the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended; and HUD regulations at 24 CFR 42.325 and is applicable to our CDBG¹ projects.

Minimize Displacement

Consistent with the goals and objectives of activities assisted under the Act, the County of Marathon will take the following steps to minimize the direct and indirect displacement of persons from their homes:

- Utilize grant funding solely for the purposes of rental and mortgage assistance and small business grants to avoid displacement of residents based on implementation of the grant.

In an unforeseen circumstance:

- Provide information about facilities to house persons who must be relocated temporarily during rehabilitation.
- Connect individuals to community resources to receive education or assistance available to them

Relocation Assistance to Displaced Persons

The County of Marathon will provide relocation assistance for lower-income tenants who, in connection with an activity assisted under the CDBG Program, move permanently or move personal property from real property as a direct result of the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of a lower-income dwelling unit in accordance with the requirements of 24 CFR 42.350. A displaced person who is not a lower-income tenant, will be provided relocation assistance in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, and implementing regulations at 49 CFR Part 24.

(continued on the next page)

¹ CDBG programs include: Entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, State CDBG Program, CDBG Small Cities Program, Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, CDBG Special Purpose Grants Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

One-for-One Replacement of Lower-Income Dwelling Units

The County of Marathon will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable lower-income dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than lower-income housing in connection with a project assisted with funds provided under the CDBG Program in accordance with 24 CFR 42.375.

Before entering into a contract committing the County of Marathon to provide funds for a project that will directly result in demolition or conversion of lower-income dwelling units, the County of Marathon will make public by **publication in the Wausau Daily Herald and on the County's Website** and submit to HUD [the State, under the State CDBG Program] the following information in writing:

1. A description of the proposed assisted project;
2. The address, number of bedrooms, and location on a map of lower-income dwelling units that will be demolished or converted to a use other than as lower-income dwelling units as a result of an assisted project;
3. A time schedule for the commencement and completion of the demolition or conversion;
4. To the extent known, the address, number of lower-income dwelling units by size (number of bedrooms) and location on a map of the replacement lower-income housing that has been or will be provided. *NOTE: See also 24 CFR 42.375(d).*
5. The source of funding and a time schedule for the provision of the replacement dwelling units;
6. The basis for concluding that each replacement dwelling unit will remain a lower-income dwelling unit for at least 10 years from the date of initial occupancy; and
7. Information demonstrating that any proposed replacement of lower-income dwelling units with smaller dwelling units (e.g., a 2-bedroom unit with two 1-bedroom unit), or any proposed replacement of efficiency or single-room occupancy (SRO) units with units of a different size, is appropriate and consistent with the housing needs and priorities identified in the HUD-approved Consolidated Plan and 24 CFR 42.375(b).

To the extent that the specific location of the replacement dwelling units and other data in items 4 through 7 are not available at the time of the general submission, the County of Marathon will identify the general location of such dwelling units on a map and complete the disclosure and submission requirements as soon as the specific data is available.

Replacement not Required Based on Unit Availability

Under 24 CFR 42.375(d), the County of Marathon may submit a request to HUD (or to the State, if funded by the State) for a determination that the one-for-one replacement requirement does not apply based on objective data that there is an adequate supply of vacant lower-income dwelling units in standard condition available on a non-discriminatory basis within the area.

Contacts

The **Finance Department 715-261-1170** is responsible for tracking the replacement of lower-income dwelling units and ensuring that they are provided within the required period.

The **Finance Department 715-261-1170** is responsible for providing relocation payments and other relocation assistance to any lower-income person displaced by the demolition of any dwelling unit or the conversion of lower-income dwelling units to another use.

Adopted by the County of Marathon Board on: _____ (date adopted).

Signature of Authorized Official

Chair
Title of Authorized Official

Kurt Gibbs
PRINTED NAME of Authorized Official

Authorizing Resolution to Submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Relating to the **County of Marathon** participation in the Community Development Block Grant **Coronavirus (CDBG-CV)** Program.

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR) for the purpose of the provision or development of a **Program to provide rental/mortgage assistance and a program to provide small business grants** for the **County of Marathon**;

WHEREAS, after public meeting and due consideration, the **Marathon County Board** has recommended that an application be submitted to DOA for the following project: **Rental/Mortgage Assistance and Small Business Grants**; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the **County Board** to approve the preparation and filing of an application for the **County of Marathon** to receive funds from this program; and

WHEREAS, the **County Board** has reviewed the need for the proposed project(s) and the benefit(s) to be gained there from;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Marathon County Board** does hereby approve and authorize the preparation and filing of an application for the above-named project; and that the **County Board Chair** is hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the **County of Marathon**; and that authority is hereby granted to **Executive Committee** to take the necessary steps to prepare and file the application for funds under this program in accordance with this resolution.

ADOPTED on this day of , . ATTEST: _____
(Day) (Month) (Year) (Signature of Clerk)

The governing body of **Marathon County** has authorized the above resolution

by Resolution No.: , dated .
(Resolution Number) (Date Authorized)

Signature of the Chief Elected Official Title Date Signed

Kurt Gibbs
Typed Name of the Chief Elected Official

Marathon County Resolution

Celebrating Black History Month

WHEREAS, Black History Month, as envisioned by Carter G. Woodson in 1926, is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and is a time for recognizing the central role of members of the African Diaspora in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, Black history reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride in its people's struggle to equitably share in the opportunities of a nation founded upon slavery as an economic driver, and embody the values of freedom and justice for all people.

WHEREAS, African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of Black Codes, Jim Crow laws, lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the fundamental rights of citizenship and enterprise; and,

WHEREAS, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in our society; and,

WHEREAS, Marathon County remains committed to working towards becoming a more culturally aware and inclusive community; then,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Marathon County does declare the month of February, 2021 to be celebrated as Black History Month; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marathon County recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marathon County acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans and to encourage ourselves to learn from the past, understand the present, and work to create the best possible future.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2021

DIVERSITY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fiscal Impact: None.

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2021, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke L.C. Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll, Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, and Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through The Journal of

Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Marathon County Board of Supervisors—

(1) acknowledges that all people are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”.

Footnote: This Resolution is based on the language contained in US Senate Resolution 45 introduced by Senator Cory Booker and cosponsored by 43 other Senators.