

2 **RESOLUTION: Request Sheriff to Read Declaration of Independence on Courthouse**
3 **Steps on July 4, 2020**

4 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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

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

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

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

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
17 requests Sheriff John Matz to read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Winnebago County
18 Courthouse at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of July 4, 2020, as this was the custom in the early history of our country.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that we ask Sheriff John Matz
20 to read the document without further comment or speech. This event is intended for those present to hear the words
21 of the Declaration as we begin to celebrate our Day of Independence. (Social distancing and masks will be respectfully
22 maintained.)

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26 Respectfully submitted by:

27 **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

28 Committee Vote: **4-0**

29 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

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31 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2020.

32
33 _____
34 Mark L Harris
35 Winnebago County Executive