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RESOLUTION: Sever the relationship between the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission and the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee, and require the Commission to report directly to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission is to embrace “diversity, inclusion, and belonging by bringing the community together to listen to one another, learn together, and encourage our community to act in ways that help people thrive. We support justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person”; and

WHEREAS, “The purpose of the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission is to create an equitable and inclusive Winnebago County that fosters thriving communities for all who reside and work in Winnebago County” and “will make every effort to treat all people with the same respect we expect to receive”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 107-122020, the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission is to be accountable to the UW-Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission bylaws mandate that “the Extension Liaison shall attend meetings and provide connection to University resources, serve as a facilitator when requested, be engaged as a technical advisor and work to coordinate all educational and outreach efforts of the commission. This position is not elected and shall serve as needed in partnership with the steering committee. The Extension Liaison shall be responsible for reporting to the overseeing UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee three times per calendar year”; and

WHEREAS, the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission bylaws provide that the steering committee shall be comprised of five members of the public who live in Winnebago County, a Winnebago County Board Supervisor selected at large, and a Winnebago County Board Supervisor who serves on the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, having to choose one supervisor from the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee does not leave room for the best qualified Winnebago County Board Supervisor to serve on the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, it would be advantageous for the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission to work with a variety of Committees and Commissions within Winnebago County, and as such, the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission should report directly to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the relationship between the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission and the UW Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee will be severed and the Winnebago County Diversity Affairs Commission will report directly to the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors.

Fiscal Note: No fiscal impact.

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Respectfully submitted by:

RACHAEL DOWLING, District 1

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Members Present**

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

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive