

2 **RESOLUTION: Request Sheriff to Read Declaration of Independence on Courthouse**
3 **Steps on July 4, 2012**

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

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

13 **WHEREAS**, the notification of the Declaration to responsible citizens was then done by sheriffs who
14 proclaimed it at the courthouse steps, by clergymen who read it from their pulpits, and by printers who printed it in
15 their gazettes; and

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

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
19 requests Sheriff John Matz to read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the Courthouse at 8:00 a.m. on
20 the morning of July 4, 2012, as this was the custom in the early history of our country.

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

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25 Respectfully submitted by:

26 **JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

27 Committee Vote: **4-0**

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

29

30 Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2012.

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Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive