



Dane County Board of Supervisors Monthly Update June 2020

Board votes on \$10 million for eviction prevention

The Board voted June 4 on a plan that includes a \$10 million eviction prevention fund using [CARES Act](#) funding, along with efforts to increase housing stability. The Board also voted on a resolution establishing the [Public Protection and Judiciary Committee Fines and Fees Subcommittee](#). The subcommittee will review the current fines and fees assessed in the civil, human services, and criminal justice systems and determine how Dane County can reduce or eliminate these fees, fines, and costs. The review will include analysis of the financial hardship and justice hardship placed on low income individuals and their families because of fees. The subcommittee will make recommendations on approaches to mitigate the impact of these charges. The 14 member subcommittee will make a report of findings and recommendations, to include recommendations for the 2022 county budget, to the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee and the Health and Human Needs Committee before June 15, 2021.

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COUNTY BOARD OUTLINES ACTIONS TO CONTINUE WORK ON RACIAL EQUITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

As the county, state, nation, and world experience the pain and destruction of the last weeks, The County Board calls on the community and all local elected officials to learn, reflect and reform. For decades the Dane County Board has been an incubator for policy solutions. In some ways, the Board has moved swiftly and decisively toward system improvements, but far too often the political will, the public support, and the ability to change has waned.

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Juneteenth recognized by County Board

Juneteenth, which occurs June 19, recognizes the date that enslaved African Americans in Texas learned of their emancipation in 1865, almost two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation (1863). Juneteenth has been celebrated since 1971 in Milwaukee, and since 1990 in Madison. The date was declared a Wisconsin State Holiday on December 1, 2009. A resolution passed by the Board resolves that the Board recognizes the importance of Juneteenth in Dane County and further commits to work continually to lead systemic change so African Americans in our community can realize the freedom and equality first promised by the Emancipation Proclamation. The resolution acknowledges that even in 2020 in the United States of America, the legacy of slavery is felt daily by African Americans, and the promise of liberation is yet to be fulfilled, as evidenced by a lack of equal access to educational and economic opportunity, in challenged health outcomes, and, most critically, in disproportionate and sometimes life-threatening interaction with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

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Board approved funds for food insecurity due to COVID-19

The Board approved a resolution to give Second Harvest Food Bank an additional \$1 million a month for August, September and October due to increased demand at food pantries. The COVID Relief Fund provides the county with the resources to supply the pantries with additional funds. The contract allows Second Harvest to purchase food and distribute it to local food pantries. The County Board's standing committees continue to discuss the priorities for some of the \$95 million the County received from the federal CARES Act, and a top priority is food insecurity. County Board Supervisor Michele Ritt (District 18), Chair of the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee, as well as a member of the Food Council said, "Food insecurity has been a significant problem for a long time; the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted it even more as a growing issue that needs to be addressed immediately."

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