

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on a single night in January 2022, 700 people in Madison/Dane County were experiencing homelessness in shelters or on the streets; and

WHEREAS, annually, close to 3,000 people are served in emergency shelters and transitional housing in our community, and many more live in unstable, doubled-up situations or in hotels; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted people who are experiencing homelessness and housing instability; and

WHEREAS, the number of Madisonians affected by homelessness is a significant community issue; and

WHEREAS, homelessness has a tremendous impact on those who experience it; particularly children and has been shown to inflict higher levels of emotional and behavioral health problems, increase the risk of serious health issues, separate family members from one another, and disrupt school attendance, often leading to lower academic performance; and

WHEREAS, there are many causes of homelessness, but chief among them are a shortage of available housing, enduring poverty, the growing gap between soaring housing costs and stagnant incomes, health and behavioral health challenges and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, people of color are disproportionately represented among those who experience homelessness, largely due to long-standing historical and structural racism reflected in housing segregation, poverty and higher rates of incarceration; and

WHEREAS, while issues around homelessness are complex and challenging, they are solvable; and

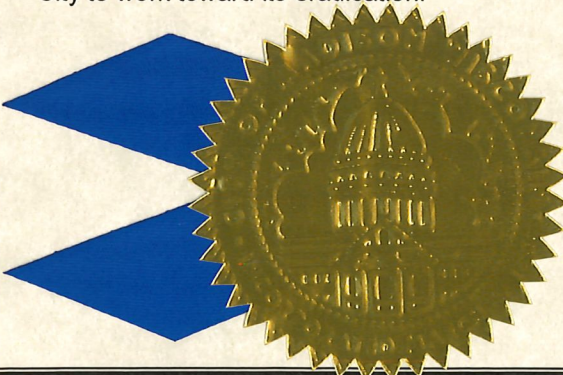
WHEREAS, we can address those issues not by blaming the people who experience homelessness, but by working to build a response system that is humane, and equitable and coordinated, and that is focused on the ultimate solution to homelessness, which is providing stable housing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madison has worked with service providers and Dane County since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to transform our approach to homelessness, including making hotel rooms available to vulnerable populations, creating multiple temporary shelters, taking substantive steps toward Wisconsin's first purpose-built shelters, creating Madison's first urban campground, and more; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madison has worked to prevent homelessness by partnering with Dane County and service providers to administer Dane CORE, a federally funded rental assistance program, funding the construction of affordable housing, and more; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this proclamation is to raise public awareness about the extent and impacts of homelessness in our community, and to call on leaders at the local, state and national levels to rededicate themselves to take the necessary steps to make homelessness a rare, brief and non-recurring event for our residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, on behalf of the residents of Madison, Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim **November 2022 as Homelessness Awareness Month** and pledge to commit this City to work toward its eradication.



Handwritten signature of Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway in black ink.

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway

Signed and sealed this 1st day of November, 2022 at City Hall