

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Anthony “Tony” Awofeso, former R&D Manager at Georgia-Pacific in Oshkosh was a Co-Founder and the first President of African Heritage, Inc., hereto referred to as “AHI” formed in 1998 by a group of individuals of African descent who reside in the Fox Cities; and

WHEREAS, AHI provides a support system for Africans, African-Americans, and all in our community who have an interest in African American/Black culture and issues focused on the generation of goodwill and the promotion of cross cultural understanding and education which created the 1st Black History Month Program event in 1999 and the first Juneteenth Celebration ten years later in 2009; and

WHEREAS, he served as Chair of the Towards Community non-profit (the pre-cursor group to Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities); and

WHEREAS, he served as the first person of color to be elected into public office in Northeast Wisconsin as Outagamie County Board Supervisor in 2002 serving until 2008; then became President and Chair of the Board of Directors for B.A.B.E.S. Ministry and recipient of the annual Jane LaChapelle McCarty Community Leader Award at the 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in 2016; and

WHEREAS, he is the Former Board Member and Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Fair Housing Council and Board Member of CAP Services as well as a member of the African American Advisory Board to the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Awofeso was a Co-Founder, Treasurer and Board Member of African Heritage, Inc. who started and coordinated the AHI care package program for Black students; and

WHEREAS, she led the purchase of school supplies for AHI’s back to school program; and

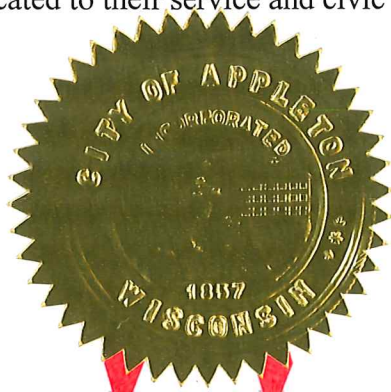
WHEREAS, Shirley and Tony served as Co-Collaborators helping to provide the research for the “Stone of Hope Exhibit: Black Experiences in the Fox Cities from the 1700’s to the present” at the History Museum at the Castle; and

WHEREAS, together they served 31 years in this community, including volunteering at McKinley and Houdini Schools after which they have now earned their right to begin their retirement with a legacy of multiple accomplishments leaving Appleton better than they found it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT I, TIMOTHY M. HANNA, mayor of the city of Appleton, Wisconsin do hereby proclaim Sunday, April 7, 2019 as

The Anthony ‘Tony’ and Shirley Awofeso

in Appleton and encourage all citizens to join the commemoration and celebration of this day, which is dedicated to their service and civic engagement.



Signed and sealed this 7th day of April, 2019.


TIMOTHY M. HANNA
MAYOR OF APPLETON