**Occasion:**

No Menthol Sunday is a national observance day led by the The Center for Black Health and Equity. It is an exciting time for faith communities to effect change in the health of their congregations. Each year the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network (WAATPN) joins allies across the country, including the ADD COALITION, in encouraging faith leaders to talk about the importance of living healthfully—not only for the sake of one’s own sacred physical body, but for the sake of the African-American community as a whole. We emphasize the role of menthol making it difficult to quit using tobacco, but we don’t stop there. We speak loudly against social, economic and governmental systems that perpetuate health disparities and keep tobacco use at status quo. Tobacco is still the number one killer of African Americans and smoking can weaken your immune system and put you at higher risks of severe illness or death from COVID-19. This year, the 7th No Menthol Sunday, is a critical year in menthol policy history, as the FDA is slated to introduce new policies on menthol. No Menthol Sunday is a time to further efforts to build support for this needed policy change, and stop any opposition. This year’s theme is Bold Awareness: A fight to the finish. This fight will require bold fearlessness to win, but it will come to fruition. It is for justice that we stand with marginalized communities who continue to experience the ill health effects of disparities. We act justly by fighting for policies that equally offer everyone the privilege of optimal health—especially as it relates to tobacco. We urge elected officials to take action to ban mentholated cigarettes and flavored electronic cigarettes, and recognize ADD CITY’S faith community for collaborating with The Center for Black Health and Equity and the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network and the ADD COALITION to help us win this fight.

**Draft of Proclamation:**

The City of ADD proudly joins the Wisconsin African American Tobacco Prevention Network, the Add Coalition, faith leaders, friends, family and community members in celebrating No Menthol Sunday on Sunday, May 15, 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, No Menthol Sunday is a national observance day led by The Center for Black Health and Equity and supported locally by the Wisconsin African Tobacco Prevention Network and ADD COALITION; and,

**WHEREAS**, No Menthol Sunday emphasizes the role of menthol in quitting tobacco and addresses the social, economic and governmental systems that perpetuate health disparities and keep tobacco use at status quo; and,

**WHEREAS**, No Menthol Sunday encourages faith leaders to talk about the importance of living healthy lives—not only for the sake of one's own physical body, but for the sake of the African American community as a whole; and,

**WHEREAS**, No Menthol Sunday acknowledges that tobacco is a major contributor to the three leading causes of death among African-Americans: heart disease, cancer and stroke, and that vaping and smoking can weaken the immune system and put individuals at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19; and,

**WHEREA**S, No Menthol Sunday recognizes people of faith and the instrumental role they play in creating change by supporting those who want to quit tobacco by letting them know they are not alone; and,

**WHEREAS,** now is a time for “A Bold Awareness: A Fight to the Finish,” and a chance to further efforts to end the harm from menthol; and,

**WHEREAS,** when it comes to protecting our young people and our most vulnerable communities, we must not grow weary or turn a blind eye; and,

**WHEREAS**, The City of ADD encourages all community members to increase their awareness of the negative effects of tobacco use and to support the effort to address menthol in order to promote the health and well-being of all;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ADD NAME**, ADD TITLE, for the City of ADD, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 15, 2022, to be

**NO MENTHOL SUNDAY**

throughout the City of ADD.