

FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

1 By Supervisor Weishan

2 File No. 14-635

3 **A RESOLUTION**

4 Opposing any new tax to help pay for the renovation or construction of a new sports
5 and entertainment arena to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the City of
6 Milwaukee and to expand the Wisconsin Center Convention Center
7

8 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (“MMAC”)
9 assembled a task force of elected officials and community leaders to discuss the future
10 funding of Milwaukee’s cultural and entertainment facilities, including the potential
11 replacement of the BMO Harris Bradley Center and expansion of the Wisconsin Center
12 Convention Center; and

13 WHEREAS, MMAC invited representatives from five counties: Milwaukee,
14 Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, and Racine; the same counties that comprise the
15 Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District that is charged with oversight of
16 constructing, operating, and maintaining Miller Park; and

17 WHEREAS, since the implementation of a 0.1% (one-tenth of one-percent) sales
18 and use tax in 1996 in five counties to pay the debt service costs on Baseball Park
19 District issued revenue bonds and facility operation expenses, approximately \$434.7
20 million has been paid to the Baseball Park District; and

21
22 WHEREAS, based on a recent financial analysis, the Baseball Park District sales
23 tax will most likely sunset between 2018 and 2020; and

24
25 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has an urgent and ongoing need to secure
26 dedicated funding for its parks, recreation and culture, transit, and Emergency Medical
27 Services (“EMS”); and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Board of Supervisors approved File No. 08-217 on
30 June 26, 2008, that established an advisory referendum on November 4, 2008, to ask
31 voters if a one percent county sales and use tax should be used for parks, recreation and
32 culture, transit, and EMS, which would relieve them from being included within the
33 property tax levy; and

34
35 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County voters approved the advisory referendum on
36 November 4, 2008, by a margin of 52 to 48 percent; and

37
38 WHEREAS, despite the support from the voters, media and effort by many
39 policymakers, the State Legislature and governor have yet to adopt and sign into law
40 authority to enact the referendum as approved by Milwaukee County voters; and
41

FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

42 WHEREAS, conservative initial estimates indicate that it may cost at least \$400
43 million to build a new sports and entertainment arena and \$300 million to build a
44 major expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center facility; and
45

46 WHEREAS, until the critical needs of Milwaukee County's existing public assets
47 are addressed and provided for, it would be reprehensible to consider a sales tax that
48 would only fund the construction of another new sports and entertainment facility and
49 offer no provisions to the entities that voters have expressed their support of; now,
50 therefore,
51

52 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is hereby
53 opposed to spending any new tax dollars on the renovation or construction of a new
54 sports and entertainment arena to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the City of
55 Milwaukee, or to build a major expansion to the Wisconsin Center Convention Center;
56 and
57

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is
59 also opposed to extending the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District
60 sales tax of 0.1% for any purposes other than which it was originally authorized.