

2
3
4 **AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION**

5
6 Urging the State of Wisconsin to keep Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center open
7 and reconsider alternative sites for the construction of a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional
8 Facility
9

10
11 WHEREAS, Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center (FCCC) opened in 2000
12 and is named after late community activist Felmers O. Chaney who believed that people
13 could change if they are provided the opportunity, resources, and direction; and
14

15 WHEREAS, FCCC is a minimum-security 100-bed pre-release facility for adult
16 men transitioning from the Wisconsin Correctional System (WCS) back into the
17 community; and
18

19 WHEREAS, residents housed at FCCC are eligible to participate in work release
20 programs through local employers with the intent to retain employment with that
21 employer upon release; and
22

23 WHEREAS, FCCC also assists residents with getting substance abuse
24 treatment, mental health treatment, housing assistance, assistance with earning their
25 high school equivalency diploma, and more; and
26

27 WHEREAS, FCCC receives monumental support from local employers, nonprofit
28 agencies, and governmental agencies to provide residents with opportunities to give
29 back to the community, enhance their work skills, social skills, and improve their
30 success upon reentering society; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature adopted 2017 Wisconsin Act 185
33 authorizing the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes by July 1, 2021, and building
34 a new Type I Juvenile Correctional Center to house serious juvenile offenders and
35 Secured Residential Care Centers for children and youth to be operated by counties;
36 and
37

38 **WHEREAS, Milwaukee County has invested significantly in community**
39 **programs that offer alternatives to incarceration for youth offenders, such as the**
40 **use of Credible Messengers, and is likely to soon ratify ARPA Task Force**
41 **recommendations to provide approximately \$4.1 million for the youth justice**

42 **continuum of care and almost \$3 million exclusively for justice involved girl's**
43 **programs, which reduces the need to build expensive new correctional facilities;**
44 **and**
45

46 WHEREAS, on April 8, 2022, Wisconsin Governor Evers signed into law
47 Wisconsin Act 252 allocating \$40 million to build a new Type I Juvenile Correctional
48 Center in Milwaukee County, of which FCCC was identified as a possible site; and
49

50 WHEREAS, the Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board provided testimony to the
51 Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety stating that "Eliminating 100 beds at a
52 pre-release center in Milwaukee would be a tragic mistake. In 2018, 29 percent of all
53 persons released from the Department of Corrections were released to Milwaukee".
54 ; and
55

56 WHEREAS, the Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board also provided 11
57 alternative locations in Milwaukee County for the State of Wisconsin to consider, not
58 including FCCC; and
59

60 WHEREAS, FCCC provides critical support services to set men up for success
61 as they reintegrate into society and return to their families, and the closure of FCCC
62 would be detrimental to men awaiting release, the community, and the employers that
63 help support their transition as well; and
64

65 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), at its meeting
66 of May 17, 2022, laid over File No. 22-600 for one meeting (vote 5-0); and
67

68 WHEREAS, the Committee on IGR, at its meeting of July 11, 2022,
69 recommended adoption of File No. 22-600 as amended (vote 2-1); now, therefore,
70

71 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports
72 keeping Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center open for adult men transitioning from
73 the Wisconsin Correctional System (WCS) back into the community; and
74

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is
76 urging the State of Wisconsin to reconsider the possibility of closing Felmers O. Chaney
77 Correctional Center and explore other sites for the construction of a Type I Juvenile
78 Correctional Center **with fewer than the 32 beds originally sought**; and
79

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
81 authorizes and directs the Government Affairs Liaison to communicate the contents of

82 this resolution to the Governor, Secretary, Department of Corrections, and the
83 Wisconsin State Legislature.

84

85

86 07/28/2022

87 \\Fi01wpchc\comclerk\$\County Board Files\County Board 2022\Engrossed Resolutions\July 28\22-600 Engrossed
88 Resolution.docx