

1 Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, reporting on:

3
4 File No. 16-484

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6 (ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Weishan, Jr., Moore Omokunde, Mayo, Sr.,
7 and Dimitrijevic authorizing the Director of Economic Development, Department of
8 Administrative Services, the Milwaukee County Comptroller, and the Director,
9 Community Business Development Partners, to develop a pilot grant program in the
10 amount of \$1,000,000, and a revolving loan program in the amount of \$5,000,000 to
11 provide financial assistance for the replacement of privately-owned lead laterals, as well
12 as the removal of lead paint in owner-occupied homes, residential non-owner occupied
13 homes, and commercial buildings located north of Highland Avenue, south of North
14 Avenue, west of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, and east of 27th Street, by
15 recommending adoption of the following:

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17 **A RESOLUTION**

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19 WHEREAS, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers
20 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) agree there is no safe level of lead exposure,
21 as lead is known to cause a range of behavioral and cognitive health problems for
22 humans; and

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24 WHEREAS, lead can enter drinking water through decay or corrosion of old lead-
25 based pipes, fixtures, or from leaded solder that connects water to pipes, and lead can
26 also be found in homes due to lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust; and

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28 WHEREAS, in Milwaukee County (the County) the largest concentration of lead
29 pipes are in the City of Milwaukee (the City), with a total of 70,000 lead laterals; and

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31 WHEREAS, lead paint presents hazards at a high risk for homes built before
32 1978 and very high risk for homes built before 1940, presenting real dangers to
33 residents living in older homes in the City; and

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35 WHEREAS, the two approaches to prevent lead contamination of water are
36 water treatment or pipe replacement; and

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38 WHEREAS, the treatment approach treats water with chemicals, such as
39 phosphorus to control corrosion, which minimizes lead levels to EPA permissible levels
40 but does not remove the source of lead; and

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42 WHEREAS, the replacement approach, which replaces all or a portion of the
43 plumbing infrastructure with non-lead pipes and fixtures, can eliminate lead in the water
44 system; and

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46 WHEREAS, ownership of lead lateral service lines is shared between the
47 municipality and the homeowner, as the municipality is responsible for the portion from
48 the water main to the property line, and the homeowner is responsible for the portion
49 from the property line to the home; and

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51 WHEREAS, national research indicates that the potential risk for increased lead
52 levels is greater when there is only a partial replacement of a lead service line; and

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54 WHEREAS, full replacement is desirable but costly for homeowners, as the City
55 estimates it will cost homeowners between \$3,500-\$7,000 to replace their portion of the
56 lead lateral; and

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58 WHEREAS, when the City of Madison replaced the vast majority of privately
59 owned lead laterals, replacement was partially paid for through general purpose tax
60 dollars, as well as through grants provided by the utility; and

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62 WHEREAS, the elimination of lead in the water-system and in homes is
63 important to the health and safety of County residents; and

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65 WHEREAS, the County has an obligation address the threat of lead
66 contamination and assist homeowners in eliminating this threat; and

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68 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its
69 meeting of September 7, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 4-1);
70 now, therefore,

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72 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
73 requests the Director of Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services
74 (DAS), the Milwaukee County Comptroller, and the Director, Community Business
75 Development Partners (CBDP), develop a pilot grant program in the amount of
76 \$1,000,000 subject to the review and approval of the County Board, to provide financial
77 assistance to homeowners for the replacement of privately owned lead laterals and
78 removal of lead paint from their homes located north of Highland Avenue, south of North
79 Avenue, west of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, and east of 27th Street; and

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81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board requests the Director of
82 Economic Development, DAS, the Milwaukee County Comptroller, and the Director,
83 CBDP, develop a revolving loan program in the amount of \$5,000,000 subject to the
84 review and approval of the County Board, to provide financial assistance for the
85 replacement of lead laterals and the removal of lead paint on commercial properties or
86 residential non-owner occupied homes located north of Highland Avenue, south of
87 North Avenue, west of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, and east of 27th Street; and

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89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of Economic Development, DAS, will
90 provide a report detailing the design and plan for implementation for both the pilot grant
91 program and pilot revolving loan program to the Committee on Transportation, Public
92 Works, and Transit by December 31, 2016; and

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94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board requests that the City of
95 Milwaukee coordinate lateral replacement with residents of the aforementioned area, to
96 ensure full replacement of lead service lines.

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