

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisor Romo West creating Milwaukee County’s policy on homelessness with the goal of reducing homelessness to the extent that existing financial and resource capabilities allow, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty estimates that as many as 3.5 million people experience homelessness in America each year and approximately one million of these individuals are children; and

WHEREAS, the Institute for Community Alliances reports that 27,556 Wisconsin residents experienced homelessness in 2013, with 42% residing in Dane and Milwaukee Counties; and

WHEREAS, the report also states that this number is a low estimate because it only includes people serviced by the Homeless Management Information System; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (the Journal) reported that in the 2012-13 school year, 3,556 Milwaukee Public Schools students were homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Journal also reported that a single count on a bitter cold night in January 2013 recorded 1,500 homeless individuals with no shelter and advocates state the number may be 3,000 or more on any given night; and

WHEREAS, the most common causes of homelessness for families is lack of affordable housing, poverty, and unemployment, while the common causes for single persons are substance abuse, lack of affordable housing, and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, homelessness affects people of all ages, occupations, and ethnicities, but disproportionately affects minorities; and

WHEREAS, homelessness occurs throughout all Wisconsin communities and has no geographical boundaries; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is a shared problem and the responsibility to prevent and alleviate homelessness belongs to all communities and governments across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County provides for the homeless in numerous ways, including, but not limited to, permanent housing initiatives, supportive housing, programs for veterans, funding for homeless shelters, partnerships with local food pantries and soup kitchens, and comprehensive crisis and mental health services; and

47 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of June
48 17, 2015, recommended adoption of the resolution (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
49

50 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County will continue to support efforts to provide
51 food and shelter for residents who are without resources; and
52

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County will continue to seek out
54 resources, partnerships, services, and financial assistance for the homeless by
55 exploring opportunities with community groups, private businesses and groups, state
56 and federal funding, partnerships with municipalities, and non-profit agencies; and
57

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County will work to ensure current and
59 future laws and regulations do not contribute to the factors that lead to homelessness,
60 or impede long-term solutions; and
61

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County will continue to coordinate and
63 provide emergency food and shelter and financial and social service resources with the
64 goal of reducing chronic homelessness to the extent that existing financial and resource
65 capabilities allow; and
66

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution will serve as the guiding policy for
68 Milwaukee County on the provision of emergency shelter, food, and services to the
69 homeless.
70

71
72 srb
73 06/17/15
74 U:\Committees\2015\June\HHN\Resolutions\15-372 Homelessness (SRB formatted).docx