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From the Executive Director, Milwaukee County Ethics Board, per the request of the Milwaukee County Office of the Comptroller - Audit Services Division, recommending an amendment to Section 9.14(2)(a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to modify the Statement of Economic Interest form to include information regarding the status of a vendor’s relationship with a department when a gift has been received in excess of fifty dollars (\$50.00), by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Code of Ethics (the Ethics Code) contained in Section 9 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (the Code) requires certain employees and officials to file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) form upon entering Milwaukee County (the County) service as well as annually with Office of the Ethics Board; and

WHEREAS, the contents of the SEI form are dictated by Sections 9.04 and 9.14 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.14 of the Code states that, “except as provided for in paragraph (b), every county public official or employee who is required to file a statement of economic interests, pursuant to section 9.03 and who received any lodging, transportation, money, or other thing with a combined pecuniary value exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00), not including the value of food or beverage offered coincidentally with a talk or meeting, shall report on his/her statement of economic interests the identity of every person from whom the county public official received such lodging, transportation, money, or other things during the preceding taxable year, the circumstances under which it was received, and the approximate value thereof.”; and

WHEREAS, in February 2021, the Audit Services Division (ASD), Office of the Comptroller, released a report entitled “*Former ROD’s Willful Disregard for County Policies and Procedures and Cooperative Vendors Facilitated Development of a “Pot of Gold” for Improper Use of County Funds*” (the Report) in which they detailed both their investigation into the conduct of former Register of Deeds John La Fave as he sought to circumvent County policies and procedures as well as recommendations for improving internal and external controls regarding said policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, on pages 73 to 74 of the Report, and in reference to the SEI form, ASD determined that “[t]he current version of the form does not require any disclosure of whether a vendor that has given a gift to an official or an employee has a contract with the department official who is filling out the form. The lack of that information limits the effectiveness of the form since it then requires a reader to be aware of all vendor relationships within a department when reviewing the form.”; and

46 WHEREAS, ASD's recommendation for addressing this issue was that "[t]he  
47 Administrator of the Ethics Board prepare a resolution to be considered by the  
48 Milwaukee County Board to Supervisors (County Board) to modify the Statement of  
49 Economic Interest form to include information regarding the status of vendor's  
50 relationship with a department when a gift has been received in excess of \$50."; and  
51

52 WHEREAS, at its March 25, 2021, meeting, the County Board affirmed ASD's  
53 recommendations contained in the Report; and  
54

55 WHEREAS, at the Ethics Board's May 2021 meeting, the Executive Director  
56 presented the report for discussion in the interest of developing a proposal for an  
57 amendment to the Ethics Code contained herein; and  
58

59 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at it  
60 meeting of September 9, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-800 (vote 5-0);  
61 now, therefore,  
62

63 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Ethics Board and its Executive  
64 Director hereby recommend that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors amend  
65 Section 9.14(2)(a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances by adopting  
66 the following language:  
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#### 68 AN ORDINANCE

69  
70 The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as  
71 follows:  
72

73 **Section 1.** Section 9.14(2)(a) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances is  
74 hereby amended as follows:  
75

#### 76 **9.14 - Honorariums, fees, and expenses.**

77  
78 (2)(a) Except as provided for in paragraph (b), every county public official or  
79 employee who is required to file a statement of economic interests, pursuant to  
80 section 9.03 and who received any lodging, transportation, money, or other thing  
81 with a combined pecuniary value exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00), not including the  
82 value of food or beverage offered coincidentally with a talk or meeting, shall report  
83 on his/her statement of economic interests the identity of every person from whom  
84 the county public official received such lodging, transportation, money, or other  
85 things during the preceding taxable year, the circumstances under which it was  
86 received, **whether the gift was given by or on behalf of a County vendor**  
87 **contracted to work with that official or employee's department,** and the  
88 approximate value thereof.  
89

90 **Section 2.** The provisions of this Ordinance will be effective upon passage and  
91 publication.

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94 ars

95 09/09/21

96 s:\committees\2021\sept\jsgs\resolution\21-800 chapter 9.14 statement of economic interest.docx