

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** April 20, 2018

**TO:** Theodore Lipscomb, Chairman - Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mary Jo Meyers, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator, Housing Division*

**SUBJECT:** **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend Chapter 4 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, creating section 4.02(2)(a), to install "Homeless Donation Containers"**

**Background**

The Housing Division began its three year plan to end chronic homelessness in 2015 using the Housing First approach in our community. Substantial progress has been made through this initiative and the Division is on track to be the largest municipality in the nation to accomplish this goal in 2018. A majority of new funding for homelessness as come from Milwaukee County in the past several years. In order to maintain our progress and begin to focus on individuals and families that do not meet the definition of chronically homeless, The Division must begin to attract more private funds.

The Division Administrator researched several options to accomplish raising these funds and among the most successful was the Denver International Airport's (DIA) change collection containers. These containers are placed at the security lines at DIA and all of the proceeds go to Denver's Road Home, the municipality's program to address homelessness. Through Denver's initiative, the airport was able to raise \$282,722 in three years. The Division would like to replicate their success at General Mitchell International Airport.

Funds collected at General Mitchell will go entirely to support the Division's Housing First Initiative through the Housing First Endowment set up through the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is the fiscal agent of the Endowment. Funds can be used for rental assistance, case management, and employment for homeless individuals. These funds can be distributed by the Housing Administrator upon approval from the Milwaukee Continuum of Care Executive Board.

Through this ordinance change, the Airport Director may install one collection container at each of the security checkpoints at each of the passenger concourses at the airport for the purpose of collecting spare change donated and deposited by passengers prior to passing through the security checkpoints operated by the Transportation Security Administration. The

Division is currently in discussions regarding the design of the containers. Prior to installation, operation, maintenance or removal, the Airport Director shall have the authority to approve the size, design, placement, and operation of all Homeless Donation containers. The Housing Division is currently in discussions with financial institutions to assist in the collecting and depositing of the funds.

### **Recommendation**

The Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requests authorization to amend Chapter 4 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, creating section 4.02(2)(a), to install "Homeless Donation Containers"



Mary Jo Meyers, Interim Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

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