



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DAVID CROWLEY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 28, 2021

Chairwoman Nicholson, Supervisor Staskunas, and members of the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee,

First, I want to thank each of you for your continued service to the people of Milwaukee County in the midst of these unprecedented times. Though we may not agree on everything, I am inspired daily by each of your zealous advocacy on behalf of your constituents.

I write today in regard to File No. 21-918, a resolution to end the emergency proclamation declared by my predecessor in March of 2020. It is clear, at this point, that COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future in some fashion. While there was certainly a time in which an emergency response was needed – and though I continue to stand behind my previously-issued administrative orders – the time has come to re-evaluate the foundational aspects of our COVID-19 response.

To that end, I do not oppose this resolution, and regardless of the outcome will plan on taking steps to transition our ongoing COVID-19 response from an emergency posture to a posture that better reflects the intertwined nature of COVID-19 and our workplace going forward (barring, of course, a substantial change in the nature of COVID-19 in the interim).

In closing, I want to be clear that the ending of this emergency order is not meant to minimize nor declare victory over COVID-19. Instead, it's a recognition that the difficulties and dangers posed by this disease will very likely be with us long-term, and that those difficulties merit a more substantial and systemic response than is contemplated by the emergency declaration. I look forward to working with you to continue battling this pandemic, protecting our employees, and safely serving the people of Milwaukee County.

Respectfully,

David Crowley
Milwaukee County Executive