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(ITEM) From the Clerk of Circuit Court, requesting authorization to accept \$169,828 in funding from the Wisconsin Department of Justice and to execute a Professional Services Contract with Metro Milwaukee Mediation Services, Inc., to expend a total amount not to exceed \$169,828 to operate the Metro Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program and the Wisconsin Foreclosure Mediation Network, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, since 2009 the Metro Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program (MMFMP) has been an effective foreclosure intervention strategy, keeping over 700 families in their homes that otherwise would have been displaced by foreclosure (85% in Milwaukee County); and

WHEREAS, MMFMP has generally served over 4,000 homeowners in the metropolitan Milwaukee area; and

WHEREAS, MMFMP key staff includes Chief Mediator/Executive Director, Attorney Debra Tuttle, and Program Director of Operations, Attorney Amy Koltz, who are assisted by a staff mediator, two full-time support people, and a roster of volunteer attorney mediators and law students; and

WHEREAS, by order of the Chief Judge of the Milwaukee County Circuit Court, lenders and loan servicers who seek a foreclosure judgment are required to provide notice of and application to MMFMP, and if both parties choose to participate, a specially trained and insured mediator conducts a mediation session to discuss loan workouts or graceful exit plans; and

WHEREAS, MMFMP is currently administered through the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court, and is funded through August 2014; and

WHEREAS, the need for the MMFMP is expected to continue through 2014 and beyond, and the annual rate of residential foreclosures in Milwaukee County exceeds 3,000, almost double the historical average of 1,700, for the base year of 2000; and

WHEREAS, foreclosure represents a significant financial loss and personal tragedy for families who experience it and has far-reaching adverse impacts for Milwaukee neighborhoods, local governments, property values, the real estate market, and the lending industry; and

WHEREAS, economic indicators continue to suggest that foreclosure filings will not return to normal levels for years to come; and

45 WHEREAS, the need for foreclosure mediation services extends beyond the
46 metropolitan Milwaukee area and beyond Southeastern Wisconsin, and Metro Milwaukee
47 Mediation Services, Inc., (MMMS) has developed a toolkit and technology to assist with the
48 expansion of foreclosure mediation services in the State of Wisconsin; and

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50 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has allocated funds to
51 support MMFMP for 2014 and to support Regional Administrators who provide mediation
52 services through the Wisconsin Foreclosure Mediation Network operated by MMMS under
53 the continued administration of the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court; and

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55 WHEREAS, DOJ has established a third Memorandum of Agreement with the
56 Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court for the purpose of providing financial support to
57 Milwaukee County for costs related to (1) the MMFMP for the calendar year 2014 and (2)
58 to support related foreclosure activities throughout the State under the program known as
59 the Wisconsin Foreclosure Mediation Network, all as operated by MMMS for calendar year
60 2014; and

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62 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court will amend the existing
63 Professional Services Contract with MMMS to continue the MMFMP and to operate the
64 Wisconsin Foreclosure Mediation Network; now, therefore,

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66 BE IT RESOLVED, that based upon the proven success of the Metro Milwaukee
67 Foreclosure Mediation Program as a foreclosure intervention strategy, the Milwaukee
68 County Board of Supervisors does hereby authorize the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit
69 Court to (1) accept \$169,828 in funding from the Wisconsin Department of Justice in
70 support of the Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program and the Wisconsin Foreclosure
71 Mediation Network and (2) execute a Professional Services Contract with Metro Milwaukee
72 Mediation Services, Inc., to expend a total amount not to exceed \$169,828 to operate
73 these two programs.

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