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3 Taylor (District 17), Martin, Taylor (District 5), and
4 Johnson, Jr.

File No. 22-556

5
6 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**
7

8 Supporting the people of Ukraine and condemning the unprovoked aggression and war
9 crimes committed by Russian Federation soldiers in Ukraine
10

11 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Eastern Europeans immigrated to Milwaukee
12 County between 1870 and 1920, and after the Second World War, for economic
13 opportunity and freedom of religious and cultural expression; resulting in Milwaukee
14 being known as a city of immigrants with a strong Polish and Slavic influence, retaining
15 and celebrating a diverse ethnic presence in Milwaukee County; and
16

17 WHEREAS, many immigrant Americans share cultural, linguistic, religious, and
18 historical kinship with Ukrainians, similarly suffering under repression from the Russian
19 Empire and later Soviet Union; as Ukrainians enjoyed liberation in 1918, and repression
20 again in 1921, not regaining their freedom from Russian communist tyranny until 1991;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are Member States of the
24 United Nations, having ratified the United Nations Charter as founding Member States
25 in 1945, and then both acceded their membership respectively from the Union of Soviet
26 Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1991; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Chapter I, Article 1(3-4), of the United Nations Charter states:
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30 “3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such
31 a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.
32

33 “4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use
34 of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in
35 any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.”
36

37 ; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Russian Federation has repeatedly violated the territorial
40 integrity and political independence of Ukraine, beginning first with the occupation of the

41 Crimean Peninsula, and starting and supporting an armed insurrection in the eastern
42 Ukrainian Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in 2014; and

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44 WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation began a full-scale,
45 totally unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, cynically calling it a “special military operation”,
46 meanwhile other statements by Russian despot Vladimir Putin describe the brutal attack
47 for what it is: A revanchist war of conquest to rebuild the Russian Empire secure
48 strategic resources and weaken Western resolve in its principles and institutions; and

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50 WHEREAS, after it became clear victory would not be swift, Russian soldiers
51 committed war crimes, including indiscriminate targeting of civilian housing, hospitals,
52 schools and a nuclear power plant with artillery, rockets, and missiles, particularly in
53 Mariupol and Russian-speaking Kharkiv; and then robbing, torturing, raping and
54 murdering civilian noncombatants, most notoriously thus far in Bucha; and

55

56 WHEREAS, on March 15, 2018, the City of Milwaukee established a sister city
57 relationship with the Ukrainian city of Irpin to foster friendship and dialogue necessary to
58 strengthen foreign relations on a municipal level and promote a greater understanding
59 of both Ukrainian and American culture; and

60

61 WHEREAS, as part of Russia’s objectives to capture the Ukrainian capital of
62 Kyiv, Russian forces brutally besieged Irpin and perpetrated horrific human rights
63 abuses against residents; and despite overwhelming odds, the people of Irpin bravely
64 resisted the Russian advance, and the Ukrainian military liberated the city from the
65 Russian invaders; and

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67 WHEREAS, the laws of war established in the Geneva Conventions, of which
68 both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are party to, forbid the targeting and violation
69 of liberty of civilian noncombatants; and

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71 WHEREAS, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
72 (UNHCR), as of March 31, 2022, more than 10.5 million civilians have been displaced in
73 Ukraine or abroad as refugees, and an estimated 13 million people in Ukraine are
74 estimated to have “urgent need of humanitarian assistance. . .”; and

75

76 WHEREAS, thousands of Milwaukee County residents celebrate their Ukrainian
77 heritage by honoring their cultural and religious traditions, including St. Michael’s
78 Ukrainian Catholic Church founded in 1949 and at its current site since 1953, and St.
79 Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church Founded in 1917, both in the City of Milwaukee; and

80 WHEREAS, among many other individuals and groups, Ukrainian Americans and
81 ethnic Slavic groups or the descendants thereof in Milwaukee County who have historic,
82 cultural, and linguistic ties to Ukrainians, and a history of experiencing Russian
83 repression, **and residents of varied backgrounds**, have contributed toward raising
84 awareness of Russian war crimes against Ukrainians, and organizing efforts of
85 donations and humanitarian and defensive shipments to help Ukrainians in urgent need
86 of supplies, including these examples:

- 87
88 • **The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper, in its February 28, 2022 article,**
89 **“Here’s how Wisconsin and beyond can help support Ukrainian people in**
90 **need,” provided links as to how its readership could support Ukrainian**
91 **humanitarian efforts**
92
- 93 • WUWM 89.7 FM reported in a web article on March 10, 2022 that around 100
94 people of Milwaukee’s Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Holy Trinity Church in the
95 City of Wauwatosa marched for peace and solidarity with the people of Ukraine
96
- 97 • The Polish Center of Wisconsin in the City of Franklin reported on Facebook on
98 March 31, 2022 that it raised more than \$150,000 from more than 700 donors
99 **and has since further promoted and facilitated donations**
100
- 101 • The Rotary Club of Milwaukee, as a lead participant with the Ukrainian Medical
102 Association of North America’s effort to send medical supplies to Ukraine, on
103 April 9, 2022, sorted almost 10 tons of equipment valued at up to \$10 million
104 which was flown to Poland for distribution in Ukraine
105
- 106 • The 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., **announced at its May 16,**
107 **2022 board meeting that the organization** has raised more than **\$90,000**
108 **\$217,000** and shipped more than 115,000 pounds of humanitarian and defensive
109 equipment ~~as of April 12, 2022~~ **and continues to fundraise and raise**
110 **awareness for the Ukrainian cause**
111
- 112 • Ukrainian native Valentyn Potapenko and Milwaukee County resident, helped
113 raise more than \$50,000, as noted in the April 13, 2022 *Milwaukee Journal*
114 *Sentinel* article, “This Ukrainian native, who now lives in Wauwatosa, has raised
115 nearly \$50,000 to help Ukrainian families and military members”
116
- 117 • **Milwaukee’s Latino newspaper, El Conquistador (“The Conqueror”), and**
118 **UMOS, a Milwaukee-based Latino social service and advocacy**
119 **organization, included a fundraising booth staffed by members of St.**
120 **Michael’s Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at its May 5, celebration of the**

121 **Mexican holiday, *Cinco de Mayo* (“May 5”), a holiday celebrating the**
122 **Mexican defeat of a far superior French army at the Battle of Puebla in**
123 **1862; as reported in the May 7, 2022 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article**
124 **titled, “Milwaukee’s *Cinco de Mayo* festival includes Ukrainians as show of**
125 **support and shared spirit”**
126

- 127 • **Lakefront Brewery in the City of Milwaukee has a partnership with the**
128 **Fozzy Group outside of Kyiv, and has since March 3, 2022 sold beer can**
129 **crowlers supporting Ukraine with approximately 2/3 of the price donated to**
130 **humanitarian relief in Ukraine; and reported on Facebook on May 12, 2022**
131 **that it had raised more than \$106,000 so far**
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133 ; and
134

135 WHEREAS, the people of Ukraine ought to be able to choose their own destiny
136 free of foreign coercion, joining the free peoples of the West if they so desire; and
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138 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
139 May 17, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-556 as amended (vote 5-0); now,
140 therefore,
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142 BE IT RESOLVED, the people of Milwaukee County stand with the people of
143 Ukraine, affirm our support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of
144 Ukraine, and we hereby condemn the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and
145 Milwaukee County expresses its sincerest best wishes and support to the people of
146 Ukraine during this troubling time; and
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148 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County requests the County Clerk
149 provide this resolution to the State of Wisconsin Congressional Delegation and the
150 Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States.
151

152
153 05/17/22

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