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A resolution/ordinance by County Executive Crowley, and Supervisors Nicholson, Clancy, Czarnezki, Goodwin, Sr., Haas, Johnson, Jr., Rolland, Shea, Wasserman, Taylor, and Moore Omokunde, to amend Section 17.17(3) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances designating Juneteenth Day, June 19<sup>th</sup>, as a minor holiday for County employees to permit workers to observe this day to celebrate African American freedom and achievement by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, June 19<sup>th</sup> is Juneteenth Day (Juneteenth) which marks the date in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Texas to read and enforce the Emancipation Proclamation to the last Confederate State to receive the announcement of the end of slavery in the South, which was a step toward the abolishment of slavery in the United States (U.S.), which occurred after ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in December 1865; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest celebration of the end of slavery in the U.S., and is a day to celebrate African American freedom, culture, and achievement, encourage continuous self-development and respect for all cultures, and reflect on the history of slavery, and the lives lost in the fight for equal rights; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth has been celebrated by the people of Milwaukee in an organized capacity since at least 1971 with the Northcott Neighborhood House Juneteenth Day Parade and Festival, drawing thousands of people, hundreds of vendors, and spanning four city blocks; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) adopted File No. 20-174 on April 17, 2020, which created Chapter 108 – “Achieving Racial Equity and Health” of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances and formally recognizing Juneteenth Day; and

WHEREAS, formally recognizing Juneteenth will provide official recognition of this momentous day by County government, and increase awareness of the past, present, and future struggle for equality; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of June 18, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-463 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, beginning in 2020, June 19<sup>th</sup> shall be observed as a minor holiday in accordance with Milwaukee County’s (the County) vacation policy, and County offices, departments, and institutions shall recognize it as such going forward; and

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, since this resolution/ordinance will not be adopted  
47 prior to June 19, 2020, the Office of the Comptroller is authorized and directed to  
48 compensate employees consistent with minor holiday pay practices for June 19, 2020,  
49 provided the County Executive issues an Administrative Order prior to that date  
50 declaring Juneteenth Day (Juneteenth) a holiday this year for County employees; and  
51

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Section 17.17(3) of the Milwaukee County Code  
53 of General Ordinances shall be amended to reflect the new minor holiday designation  
54 so that County employees may observe this day with appropriate service, community,  
55 and educational programs to celebrate Juneteenth by adopting the following:  
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57 **AN ORDINANCE**

58  
59 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as  
60 follows:  
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62 **SECTION 1.** Section 17.17(3) of the General Ordinances of Milwaukee County is  
63 hereby amended as follows:  
64

65 17.17 – Vacations and holidays  
66

67 (3) The following days of each year are holidays: January 1, the third Monday in January,  
68 the third Monday in February, March 31, the last Monday in May, June 19, July 4,  
69 November 11, the fourth Thursday in November, December 25, the day appointed by  
70 the governor as Labor Day, and the day of holding the general election in November,  
71 unless as otherwise may be provided for by collective bargaining agreements; county  
72 departments, offices, and institutions may be closed on these holidays: January 1,  
73 the third Monday in January, the last Monday in May, July 4, the first Monday in  
74 September, the fourth Thursday in November, and December 25. Effective in 2002  
75 the Friday after the fourth Thursday in November shall be a holiday for non-  
76 represented employees and employees who are represented by a collective  
77 bargaining unit which has agreed to this provision. All county departments, offices  
78 and institutions shall be open to the public for business on all other statutory holidays.  
79 All employees, including those in the building and mechanical trades group in  
80 subsection 17-32(2)(c) [sic], except employees paid on an hourly or per diem basis  
81 and firefighter and equipment operators who receive off days in lieu of holidays and  
82 assistant chiefs of airport rescue and firefighting who receive off hours in lieu of  
83 holidays, shall be granted leave with pay on these days, provided that if an employee  
84 is required to work on such days because of the needs of the service, he shall be  
85 given equivalent time off or shall receive additional compensation, if such  
86 compensation is authorized by the provisions of subsection 17-16(5). Firefighter and  
87 equipment operators, who receive seven (7) off days in lieu of all holidays, shall be  
88 granted such off days during their first calendar year of employment as provided for  
89 in their collective bargaining agreements. Assistant chiefs of airport rescue and  
90 firefighting, who receive one hundred nine (109) hours of holiday time in lieu of  
91 holidays, shall be granted fifty-four and one-half (54.5) hours, or one-half (½) of the

92 annual allotment, on January 1st of each year and the second half of the annual  
93 allotment, fifty-four and one-half (54.5) hours, on August 1st of each year.

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95 **SECTION 2.** The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective upon passage and  
96 publication.

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