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INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 12, 2026

TO: Marcelia Nicholson-Bovell, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Scott F. Brown, Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel
James G. Davies, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel
Doctor Wieslawa Tlomak, Chief Medical Examiner, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office

SUBJECT: Authorizing the initiation of legal action to collect delinquent accounts owed to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office by funeral homes with outstanding balances in excess of \$25,000.

REQUEST

The Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC), in coordination with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO), requests to initiate legal action to collect delinquent accounts owed to the MCMEO by funeral homes with outstanding balances in excess of \$25,000.

These unpaid balances date back multiple years and represent a material financial impact on MCMEO and Milwaukee County. OCC would initiate lawful collection actions, which may include the commencement of civil lawsuits, to recover delinquent funds owed to the County.

POLICY

It is OCC's statutory obligation to prosecute all civil actions and to advise the County Board on all civil matters in which the County is interested. Wis. Stat. §§ 59.42(2)(b)1. & 2.

The MCMEO is authorized to assess and collect fees for services rendered pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 59.36 and 59.38(1). Despite ongoing billing, outreach, and payment plan efforts, certain funeral homes have accumulated significant outstanding balances and have failed to remit payment or provide documentation supporting indigency-based fee waivers. The current funeral homes with balances in excess of \$25,000 include:

Banks Funeral Home	Brett Funeral Home	Church & Chapel
Bruskiewitz Funeral Home	Grace Memorial Funeral Home	Krause Funeral Home
Nekas Funeral & Cremation Services, LLC	New Golden Gate Funeral Home	Northwest Funeral Home
Paradise Memorial Funeral Home	Peace of Mind Funeral Home	Pitts Funeral Home
Rozga Funeral & Cremation Services	Sass, Max & Sons Funeral Home	Serenity Funeral Home
Sunset Options Funeral & Cremation	Leon L. Williamson Funeral Home	Witkowiak Funeral Home

The approval of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is required to initiate litigation worth more than \$10,000 under M.C.G.O. 1.11(c)(5)2.(b). Accordingly, OCC seeks approval to initiate litigation against funeral homes with outstanding balances in excess of \$25,000 on behalf of Milwaukee County.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize OCC to pursue collection and enforcement actions against funeral homes with outstanding balances of \$25,000 or more owed to the MCMEO

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This request aligns with Milwaukee County's strategic goal 3B: Enhance Milwaukee County's fiscal health and sustainability; by ensuring lawful and timely collection of revenues owed to the County. Pursuing delinquent accounts and enforcing payment policies directly supports long-term fiscal sustainability. This prevents chronic write-offs and avoids shifting costs to taxpayers. It also supports accurate budgeting, forecasting, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

FISCAL EFFECT

The fiscal impact of this request is expected to increase revenue. Any personnel costs associated with OCC pursuing these claims would utilize existing staff time.

Failure to pursue these outstanding balances would result in continued financial losses and potential write-offs of receivables owed to the County.

TERMS

The OCC requests authority to pursue all available legal remedies, including litigation, against funeral homes with an outstanding balance owed to Milwaukee County in excess of \$25,000 upon approval of the attached Resolution.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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ATTACHMENTS:

Fiscal Note

Resolution