

1 By Supervisors Martinez, Eckblad, Capriolo
2 Shea, Bielinski, Gómez-Tom, O'Connor,
3 Coggs-Jones, Logsdon, and Vincent
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File No. 26-507

6 **A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE**
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8 Amending the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Section 63.047 - Graffiti
9 to permit the limited use of chalk on horizontal publicly owned surfaces
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12 WHEREAS, Section 63 of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances (MCGO)
13 defines various forms of disorderly conduct and prescribes penalties for conduct that
14 provokes public disturbance; and
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16 WHEREAS, under Section 63.047 of the same code, it is unlawful for any
17 person to intentionally mark, draw or write with paint, ink or another substance or
18 intentionally etch into another's physical property without the other person's consent;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, graffiti typically involves the use of permanent or semi-permanent
22 materials such as spray paint or markers, resulting in defacement or damage to the
23 property; and
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25 WHEREAS, chalk is a non-permanent, non-toxic medium that naturally fades or
26 washes away easily with water and does not cause lasting alteration or damage to
27 surfaces; and
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29 WHEREAS, chalk is frequently used in public spaces for expressive, non-
30 destructive activities such as art, games, and community messaging; and
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32 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County affirms its commitment to protecting freedom of
33 expression while maintaining respect for public and private property; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and General
36 Services, at its meeting of June 16, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-507
37 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby amends
40 Section 63 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances by adopting the
41 following:

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AN ORDINANCE

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 63.047 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

63.047. - Graffiti.

It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally mark, draw or write with paint, ink or another substance on or intentionally etch into the physical property of another without the other person's consent. **It shall not be an offense to use temporary, water-soluble chalk on horizontal publicly owned surfaces exposed to the elements.**

SECTION 2. The provisions of this Ordinance will be effective upon passage and publication.

06/16/26
S:\Committees\2026\June\JLEGS\Resolutions\26-507 Horizontal Chalk ORD.docx