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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Requesting the Department of Administrative Services to provide a written
7 response to the Wisconsin Policy Forum report titled “Partnering Up” and assess the
8 potential for increased shared services between the County and the City of Milwaukee
9 and a timeline for next steps

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12 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) is a statewide nonpartisan,
13 independent policy research organization who provides informed analysis of critical
14 policy issues to encourage elected officials and community leaders to find effective,
15 data-driven solutions to pressing policy challenges, and promote productive discussion
16 among the public and private sectors; and

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18 WHEREAS, the WPF has written several reports over the years highlighting the
19 financial challenges faced by Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee from
20 transportation to parks funding and overall budget challenges; and

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22 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee rely greatly on funding
23 sources besides the tax levy, such as State Shared Revenue aid, from the State of
24 Wisconsin; to fund their respective operations and programs; and

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26 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County, despite the recent addition of a new 0.4 percent
27 dedicated sales tax to fund legacy pension costs, still faces a structural budget deficit
28 each year as explained in the Five-year Financial Forecast produced by the Office of
29 the Comptroller (File No. 24-369); and

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31 WHEREAS, these structural deficits, which are a result of ongoing costs rising
32 faster than ongoing revenues, reduces the amount of funding for essential, but non-
33 state mandated services such as transportation, public health, and safety or quality of
34 life amenities like the park system; and

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36 WHEREAS, in March of 2023 the WPF began to explore options for shared and
37 consolidated services as requested by both County and City administrations; and

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39 WHEREAS, in November 2023, the WPF published the report titled, “Partnering
40 Up: A Scan of Back Office Service Sharing Possibilities for the City and County of
41 Milwaukee”; and

43 WHEREAS, the report highlights that both the City and County governments may
44 be able to achieve efficiencies on service sharing in various service areas and also
45 provides potential challenges and benefits of service sharing in the ten analyzed areas;
46 and

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48 WHEREAS, the report “Partnering Up” is a guiding tool for City and County
49 governments to conduct a more thorough analysis of service sharing and to
50 build/implement a strategic plan; and

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52 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
53 July 8, 2024, recommended adoption of File No. 24-490 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

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55 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby requests
56 that the Department of Administrative Services, working in conjunction with other
57 department heads as necessary, provide a response to the Wisconsin Policy Forum’s
58 report titled “Partnering Up” and to outline the potential for increased shared services
59 between the County and the City of Milwaukee and a timeline for next steps.

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