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An amended resolution by Supervisors Ortiz-Velez, Taylor, and Shea, stating Milwaukee County’s opposition to the President of the United States’ “zero tolerance” immigration policy and the separation of children from their families, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Administration of ~~Donald J. Trump~~ the United States (U.S.) President announced a “zero tolerance” immigration policy in April 2018, instructing the Department of Justice to criminally prosecute all persons who illegally enter, or attempt to illegally enter, the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, 1,995 minor children were separated from their parents at the Mexican-American border between April 19, 2018, and May 31, 2018, amounting to nearly 49 separations per day; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics states that child separation is an extremely distressing situation for children, which causes irreparable harm and leads to lasting mental health concerns, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety disorders; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Council states that the practice of child separation goes against the fundamental rights of children and, in some cases, may amount to torture; and

WHEREAS, following the U.S. Supreme Court’s remanding of the controversial child detention case, *Reno v. Flores*, back to District Court, the parties agreed to settle the dispute with a consent decree, entitled the Flores Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Flores Settlement Agreement outlines the standards of care for minor children in detention, including, but not limited to, placement in a least restrictive, state-licensed facility, and provision for their expeditious release; and

WHEREAS, “expeditious release” has been historically defined as no more than 20 days; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions filed an application for relief from two provisions of the Flores Settlement Agreement, one that provides for expeditious release, and one that mandates state-licensed facilities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, is currently caring for more than 2,000 separated minors in their facilities; and

47 WHEREAS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has reunited more than 500
48 unaccompanied minors, with plans to release more; and

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50 WHEREAS, attorneys for detained children and families cannot obtain proof of
51 these reunifications, and believe children are still being detained without plans to
52 reunify; and

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54 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
55 July 10, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-549 as amended (vote 4-1); now,
56 therefore,

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58 BE IT RESOLVED, ~~the Milwaukee County (the County) Board of Supervisors~~
59 ~~condemns the Trump Administration's~~ President's "zero tolerance" immigration policy;
60 and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ~~the the County Board of Supervisors~~ hereby
63 supports the enforcement of the Flores Settlement Agreement, and requests that the
64 United States (U.S.) Department of Justice retract their application for relief; and

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ~~the the County Board of Supervisors~~ denounces
67 child separation practices, and asks the ~~Trump Administration~~ President to immediately
68 release all minor children currently in detention to their families; and

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70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ~~the the County Board of Supervisors~~ asks
71 Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker to recall all National Guard troops dispatched to
72 enforce the ~~Trump Administration's~~ President's "zero tolerance" immigration policy; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk is requested to furnish a copy of
75 this resolution to ~~Government Affairs staff so that it may be communicated to the~~
76 President of the U.S., the U.S. Attorney General, the Governor, and the Milwaukee
77 County Congressional Delegation.

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