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4 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

5
6 Requesting the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) and Department of
7 Transportation to provide an informational report regarding costs involved with outfitting
8 the MCTS bus fleet with “full” superior shield models to protect drivers from COVID-19
9 transmission

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12 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) operators provide
13 exemplary service to the community as evidenced by national and international news
14 coverage of their life saving acts and other good deeds and Milwaukee County wishes
15 to maintain the reputation its drivers bring along with their quality provision of transit
16 service for residents and County guests; and

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18 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic has taken many lives, plagued many more,
19 and created unique challenges for global society including for MCTS drivers as,
20 operating MCTS buses necessitates sharing a confined space and air with members of
21 the public who may unwittingly be spreading the virus as, according to the Centers for
22 Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, it can be spread
23 before symptoms show and COVID-19 transmits from person to person primarily from
24 individuals in close proximity to each other via airborne water droplets; and

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26 WHEREAS, the County Executive ordered a universal face mask policy,
27 including on MCTS buses in Administrative Order 20-14-v2 which was endorsed by the
28 County Board (File No. 20-528); but even with facemasks and capacity limitations,
29 individuals riding MCTS buses remain enclosed relatively close together, sharing the
30 same air which may carry the COVID-19 virus and current bus operator shields do not
31 fully prevent potential passenger water droplets from reaching the bus operators; and

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33 WHEREAS, according to an April 3, 2020 National Public Radio article titled,
34 “‘Take This Serious’: Bus Driver Dies of COVID-19 After Calling Out Coughing Rider”,
35 Detroit bus operator Jason Hargrove died of COVID-19 approximately two weeks after
36 he posted a viral video on YouTube criticizing a rider who coughed multiple times
37 without covering her mouth and calling for everyone to be considerate of the health of
38 others; and

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40 WHEREAS, the Tuesday August 18, 2020 incident involving a man threatening
41 and pointing a gun at a MCTS bus driver highlights occasional dangers faced by

42 operators from erratic members of the public and the further need to protect service
43 providers; and

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45 WHEREAS, a June 16, 2020 article on *Mass Transit* magazine’s website titled,
46 “DART to install COVID-19 shields on all buses” illustrated how the Dallas Area Rapid
47 Transit (DART) agency planned to equip full shields to protect the organization’s drivers;
48 and

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50 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County ought to consider doing the same for its drivers
51 who are on the frontlines of ensuring people may go about their lives in the midst of the
52 COVID-19 Pandemic; and

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54 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 17, 2020,
55 recommended adoption of File No. 20-677 as amended (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

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57 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, at its meeting of
58 September 24, 2020, referred File No. 20-677 to the Committee on Transportation,
59 Public Works, and Transit (vote 13-5); and

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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its
62 meeting of October 21, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-677 (vote 5-0);
63 now, therefore,

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65 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby requests
66 the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) and Department of Transportation
67 prepare a report by the ~~December 2020~~ January 2021 cycle detailing ~~the costs~~
68 ~~associated with upgrading the bus operator shields to a “full” superior shield~~
69 ~~model which better protects the bus operators~~ methods and costs associated
70 with enhancing bus driver safety – addressing risks associated with COVID-19
71 and unruly passengers – including, but not limited to “full” superior bus shields,
72 bulletproof shields, and improved ventilation systems; and

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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board further requests MCTS and the
75 Department of Transportation investigate whether federal dollars from the Coronavirus
76 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act or otherwise may fund the enhanced
77 protections ~~shield acquisition~~ in whole or in part.

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