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A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., Schmitt, Taylor, Alexander, Martin, Moore Omokunde, Ortiz-Velez, Logsdon, Cullen, Sebring, Haas, Nicholson, Shea, and Johnson, Jr., establishing the “Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup” to identify and propose options for enhancing the long-term fiscal stability of Milwaukee County, enhance public services, and increase State funding of mandated services, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the fiscal challenges of Milwaukee County (the County) are well documented:

- Projected structural deficits that total nearly \$80 million cumulative through 2023 due to revenue sources that do not keep up with inflation and other adjustments
- Average annual cost to continue alone increases nearly \$13 million
- Increasing pension costs that are projected to rise for at least the next 20 years
- Deferred maintenance of more than \$200 million just in the Park System
- Massive capital needs including a new criminal courthouse, Milwaukee Public Museum, Mitchell Park Domes, Medical Examiner’s Office, modernized replacement buses, cultural assets, bridges, and roads

; and

WHEREAS, over the last two decades the County has addressed its fiscal challenges by shrinking County government as measured by total employees, number and size of facilities, privatizations, public-private partnerships, and numerous changes to services; and

WHEREAS, although counties including Milwaukee are principally charged with carrying out State of Wisconsin (the State) mandated services, those same services are not fully funded by the State leaving counties to backfill the shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the County taxpayers have contributed \$400 million more to the State between 2008 and 2015, but State revenues returned to the County have been either flat or reduced over that period; and

WHEREAS, the annual budget of the State grew an average of 2.8 percent between 2011 and 2019, from \$31.7 billion to \$38.5 billion annually, and General Fund expenditures increased an average of 3.2 percent over that period from \$14.1 billion to \$17.6 billion annually; and

43 WHEREAS, the State provides counties with limited local control, a narrow set of
44 revenue options, complicated revenue sharing formulas, and additional limitations,
45 which if left unchanged will result in further deterioration of public services; and
46

47 WHEREAS, the current State-county revenue structure also limits the ability and
48 incentive of counties to contribute to the future growth of the State and both could be
49 better served by a stronger link to their shared prosperity; and
50

51 WHEREAS, the County needs a “Fair Deal” with the State, that includes a
52 reformed State-county funding structure, to sustain and improve basic public services,
53 address long deferred maintenance, and permit needed investments in the sustainable
54 future of our communities; and
55

56 WHEREAS, the County would be best served by approaching the State with a
57 unified voice and a common set of legislative and administrative requests in support of a
58 “Fair Deal” with the State; and
59

60 WHEREAS, the Committee of the Whole, at its meeting of October 1, 2018,
61 recommended adoption of File No. 18-751 (vote 18-0); now, therefore,
62

63 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
64 and the Milwaukee County Executive jointly form the “Fair Deal for Milwaukee County
65 Workgroup” (the Workgroup) to identify viable solutions that work for both the State of
66 Wisconsin (the State) and Milwaukee County (the County) in furtherance of their shared
67 prosperity; and
68

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Workgroup shall be co-chaired by the County
70 Board Chairman and the County Executive who will also confer and appoint an equal
71 number of additional members that comprise a diverse cross section of government,
72 business, philanthropic, civic, and community interests; and
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74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Workgroup shall meet in public, will be staffed
75 by the Office of the County Clerk, and seek additional research and support from the
76 Office of the Comptroller, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, the
77 Wisconsin Policy Forum, and others as necessary; and
78

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Workgroup shall be formed immediately
80 following the adoption of the 2019 Budget, shall meet as soon as practicable and
81 necessary in November and December of 2018, and present a set of recommendations
82 to the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations; and
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84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any of the Workgroup recommendations, which
85 are adopted by the County Board and signed by the County Executive would represent
86 their joint legislative and administrative requests to the State and become the focus of
87 the County's unified advocacy and lobbying activity during review and adoption of the
88 State's 2019-2021 biennial budget bill and beyond.

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