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5 **A RESOLUTION**

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7 Supporting the recommendations of the MCTS Transit Safety and Security Task Force
8 and encouraging the implementation of new security policies and practices
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11 WHEREAS, the 2023 Adopted Budget established the MCTS Safety Task Force
12 to investigate ways to improve safety for passengers and bus operators on Milwaukee
13 County Transit System (MCTS) buses and find a solution regarding concerns of present
14 security; and
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16 WHEREAS, the taskforce was directed in the 2023 Adopted Budget to consider
17 the use of park rangers, similar to Milwaukee County Parks, on MCTS buses to enforce
18 safety and security protocol; and
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20 WHEREAS, MCTS currently contracts with the private security firm, Allied
21 Universal, to provide security on MCTS buses, though there are persistent concerns
22 from riders and operators regarding the response time and limited powers of the
23 contracted security officials; and
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25 WHEREAS, MCTS bus operators report facing increasingly dangerous and
26 unsafe work environments, which fall outside the scope of a bus operator's job
27 responsibilities; and
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29 WHEREAS, according to the MCTS Safety & Security Review report, 81% of
30 incidents on buses are related to either fare disputes (38%) or extended riders (43%);
31 and
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33 WHEREAS, the union representing Milwaukee County bus operators,
34 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 (ATU), announced its endorsement of a transit
35 ranger program earlier this year; and
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37 WHEREAS, MCTS, MCDOT and DHHS seek to collaborate on operational
38 approaches around transit safety and security that complement the work of each
39 agency and provide usable data on the efficacy of these approaches; and
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41 WHEREAS, each of the more than 80 instances of digital, written and oral
42 testimony given by stakeholders and members of the public to members of the task
43 force underlined both the need for a change in safety and security and expressed a
44 preference for public employees to do that work; and

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WHEREAS, transit security is vital to the safe and efficient operation our transit system and enhancements are needed to help protect passengers, drivers, and other members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation and Transit, at its meeting of September 5, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-839 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the Transit Safety & Security Taskforce, hereby recommends the implementation of the following safety policies and practices:

1. All vehicles in use by persons tasked with safety and security on transit be clearly and obviously labeled on, at minimum, the sides and the back of the vehicle in such a way that they can be identified from at least 40 feet away and all uniforms worn by safety and security personnel be labeled as such; the preceding recommendation was unanimous by consensus; and
2. In the event of an incident reported by an Operator, a copy of the incident report, including the classification given to the incident as well as details of any completed or ongoing follow-up by MCTS be provided to the Operator(s) involved within 48 hours of the incident; the preceding recommendation was unanimous by consensus; and
3. Clear and consistent guidance on best practices and procedures for handling passengers who fall asleep on the bus or ride a route through to the end of the route, including how to meet both operator and passenger needs; and
4. That any policy solutions to safety and security address the needs of people who may be unhoused or using transit and transit infrastructure for temporary shelter or to escape the elements; the preceding recommendation was unanimous by consensus; and
5. That a member of the entity responsible for safety and security be assigned to the unit assigned to dispatch responses to incidents; the preceding recommendation was included with two votes in favor, two opposed and one abstention (vote 2-2-1)

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, upon the recommendation of the Transit Security & Safety Task Force hereby recommends creating and funding a Transit Ranger program, which would ideally consist of 51 Transit Rangers, 4 Shift Supervisors, 1 Public Safety Manager, 1 DHHS Liaison, and 1 Housing liaison, all Milwaukee County employees, at an estimated annual cost of \$3,479,976; the preceding recommendation was included with three votes in favor, two opposed and zero abstentions (vote 3-2-0); and

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
90 requests the County Executive to consider the recommendations of the Transit Security
91 and Safety Task Force and develop and fund in the budget or through another viable
92 funding source these recommendations to enhance transit safety in our community.
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