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5 **A RESOLUTION**  
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7 Declaring a Right to Shelter in Milwaukee County so any person experiencing chronic  
8 homelessness or lacking access to safe housing will have accessible shelter; creating  
9 two additional Community Intervention Specialist positions, and accepting Emergency  
10 Solutions Grant funds from the City of Milwaukee to offset the cost for two years  
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13 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on January 6, 1941, in his “Four  
14 Freedoms Speech” declared as his third freedom that all peoples deserve to have  
15 “freedom from want”; and  
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17 WHEREAS, Article 25.1 of the United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of  
18 Human Rights of 1948, co-written by United States Representative to the United  
19 Nations Commission on Human Rights (UN CHR) and UN CHR Chair Eleanor  
20 Roosevelt, and affirmed by the United States, declares: “Everyone has the right to a  
21 standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,  
22 including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and  
23 the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old  
24 age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”; and  
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26 WHEREAS, in middle to late 2019, Milwaukee County observed with angst the  
27 presence of a significant homeless informal housing settlement under the interstate  
28 near the intersection of South Sixth Street and East Clybourn Avenue, suggesting the  
29 community has more work to do to eliminate homelessness; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services  
32 Housing Division (DHHS Housing) adheres to the Housing First principle because the  
33 most vulnerable in our community can only solve one life-changing problem at a time;  
34 and among other things, DHHS Housing provides services related to homeless  
35 outreach, housing intervention, and permanent supportive housing; and  
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37 WHEREAS, beyond all the complexities, traumas, and challenges which  
38 accompany homelessness, the singular, most salient reason someone is homeless  
39 stems from not having a permanent place to live; Milwaukee County recognizes this and  
40 understands we can put our immediate efforts into permanent solutions while continuing  
41 to tackle the structural factors which contribute to homelessness; and

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WHEREAS, in 2015 DHHS Housing announced Milwaukee County’s Plan to End Chronic Homelessness by 2018 through the Housing First Strategy, (File No. 16-335) which was expanded in 2017 (File No. 17-489), with the objective of ending cycles of homelessness which can help people get on their feet and mitigate reliance upon other social services; and

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2017, DHHS Housing quantified the fiscal impact of the permanent housing intervention by comparing emergency services utilization for 85 Housing First residents 12 months prior to and 12 months within the Housing First program; the results were a significant reduction in County program utilization amounting to more than \$700,000 in cost savings; and

WHEREAS, in the 2019 Adopted Budget, the County appropriated \$718,000 in property tax levy funds for emergency shelter assistance of temporary housing for up to 90 days for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Milwaukee County declared racism a public health crisis (File No. 19-397), acknowledging a locally longstanding inequitable access to safe and stable housing, as homelessness and housing stability disproportionately affect Black Milwaukeeans, who make up 70 percent of the County’s homeless population while being only 24.6 percent of the County’s overall population; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee receives Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds, a Federally Administered program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and can allocate the funds to eligible sub-recipients, such as Milwaukee County, to offset the cost of the second shift outreach positions; and

WHEREAS, in File No. 19-330, Milwaukee County urged local homeless services to adopt a “Code Blue Emergency” to open overnight warming centers when outside temperatures fall below 32 degrees Fahrenheit; and

WHEREAS, according to calls placed to Milwaukee’s 2-1-1 Social Services Hotline, some Milwaukee County residents must wait three to four months or more for emergency shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance-Budget, at its meeting of October 26, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-676 (vote 6-0); now, therefore

81 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County declares that all its residents have a right  
82 to shelter and that any person experiencing chronic homelessness and without access  
83 to safe housing will have accessible shelter; and

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85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Health and Human Services  
86 Housing Division shall, in collaboration with private organizations and charities and the  
87 Milwaukee Continuum of care, ensure all have access to a warm bed to sleep in by  
88 providing additional beds if and when the demand for beds exceeds the capacity of  
89 existing facilities; and

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91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
92 hereby creates, effective pay period 22, beginning October 4, 2020, the following  
93 positions to serve as second shift outreach workers to enhance DHHS Housing's  
94 coordination:

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| <u>Title</u>                      | <u>Title Code</u> | <u># of Positions</u> | <u>Pay Grade</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Community Intervention Specialist | 00008000          | 2                     | 24               |

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102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Health and Human Services is  
103 authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Milwaukee to accept  
104 Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds allocated through the U.S. Department of  
105 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to offset the cost of the positions for a two-year  
106 period to enhance homeless outreach and help effectuate access to shelter.

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