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A resolution by Supervisors Cullen, Alexander, Johnson, Jr., Ortiz-Velez, Shea, Staskunas, and Logsdon, in support of an Internet-based system to conduct Sheriff's sales of foreclosure properties and requesting the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Information Management Services Division, Department of Administrative Services, to develop a modernized auction program, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in April of 2018, Wisconsin Acts 208 and 339 were enacted which authorized counties to conduct foreclosure sales using an Internet-based auction, and established guidelines relating to minimum bidder qualifications, respectively; and

WHEREAS, under the new law, Section 846.16(1g)(b), Wisconsin State Statutes (State Statutes), a county may enact an ordinance requiring the sheriff or referee to conduct or engage an auctioneer, registered under Chapter 480, to conduct sales of mortgaged premises in the county using an internet-based auction; and

WHEREAS, under the new law, Section 846.155 and 846.16(1)(d) in Act 339, State Statutes, minimum bidder qualifications must be met, and respectively delinquent taxes must be paid on other properties owned, managed, or controlled by the third-party bidder; and

WHEREAS, an Internet-based auction system, accompanied by the minimum bidder qualifications, would streamline the sales process of foreclosed properties in Milwaukee County by the Sheriff and provide an efficient and transparent platform; and

WHEREAS, the new laws will not only help modernize the current auction system, but will help ensure future foreclosed properties are not purchased by tax-delinquent and/or property building code violators; many of whom have been featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Watchdog Report Series, "Landlord Games;" and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its meeting of September 6, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-694 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County supports the implementation of an Internet-based auction system with minimum bidder requirements for the handling of foreclosure sales by the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO); and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCSO working in conjunction with the Information Management Services Division, Department of Administrative Services (IMSD-DAS), is requested to develop an Internet-based auction system for foreclosure sales, which shall be subject to the review and approval of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board), and ultimately, passage of an authorizing ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MCSO and IMSD-DAS are requested to provide a report to the County Board as soon as practicable on the steps necessary to modernize the Sheriff's sales process and to help eliminate the ability of landlords who are tax-delinquent and/or have existing building code violations to obtain additional properties.

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09/06/18
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