

# Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee on 2022-01-20 1:30 PM - VIRTUAL MEETING

This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center:

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

## REVISED AGENDA

Please note the a

Meeting Time: 01-20-22 13:30

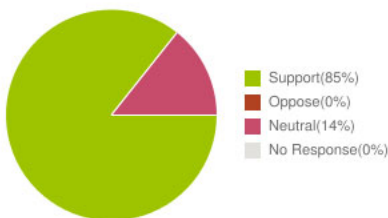
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee on 2022-01-20 1:30 PM - VIRTUAL MEETING This meeting will be live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: <a href="https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx">https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx</a>  REVISED AGENDA Please note the a	01-20-22 13:30	38	7	6	0	1

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



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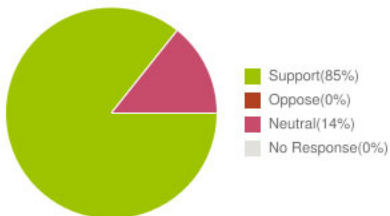
01-20-22 13:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
3 21-763 A resolution supporting a policy that video and telephone agreements for the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff and the House of Correction provide residents of Milwaukee County's correctional facilities with at least 75 minutes of free video calls per week and at least 75 minutes of free voice calls per week. (09/09/21: Laid Over for One Meeting; 10/12/21: Postponed to a Day Certain [October 21]; 10/21/21: Postponed to a Day Certain [10/29/21]; 10/29/21: Laid Over to January 2022)	6	6	0	0
2 21-1004 From the Chief Deputy, Office of the Sheriff and the Superintendent, House of Correction, are requesting authorization to enter a three-year, Professional Service Agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions LLC d/b/a ICSolutions from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 with three (3) one (1) year renewal options or on a month-to-month basis to provide resident communication services to the Milwaukee County Jail and the House of Correction. (Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY per Section 59.52(31)(d), Wisconsin State Statutes; Referred to the Committee on Finance)	1	0	0	1

## Sentiments for All Agenda Items

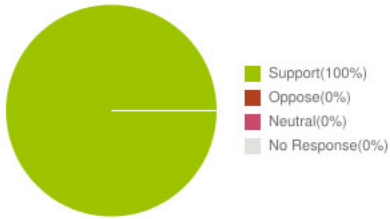
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### Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 3 21-763 A resolution supporting a policy that video and telephone agreements for the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff and the House of Correction provide residents of Milwaukee County's correctional facilities with at least 75 minutes of free video calls per week and at least 75 minutes of free voice calls per week. (09/09/21: Laid Over for One Meeting; 10/12/21: Postponed to a Day Certain [October 21]; 10/21/21: Postponed to a Day Certain [10/29/21]; 10/29/21: Laid Over to January 2022)

## Overall Sentiment



### Alex Larson

Location:

Submitted At: 1:25pm 01-20-22

I support the amended resolution to have free voice and video calls in Milwaukee County's correctional facilities. I'm sure some Supervisors will be scared away by the \$3.8M annual price tag in order to make this transition, but by comparison this is far less than the overtime overage that comes from the Sheriff's department year after year.

Our most vulnerable populations need their human needs served, not just to reduce recidivism, but because it is the morally right thing to do. And because it is the morally right thing to do, the County needs to end this practice of exploiting the incarcerated populations' need for human connection, via these phone calls, and these things need to be made available for free!

### Ax DeLessio-Parson

Location:

Submitted At: 12:21pm 01-20-22

1. Incarceration stresses social and family relationships, negatively impacting the mental health of both people who are locked up and the people who directly love and support them. Providing more time for voice/video calls therefore decreases the sum total of human suffering. 2. Social isolation exacerbates process of marginalization. The more isolated people are while locked up, the more marginalized they become (i.e. this leads to 'higher rates of recidivism' and 'more crime') and the more likely they will be furious with the system moving forward. Providing more time for voice/video calls therefore reduces future economic costs to society as it reduces conflict - in the long-term (and assuming we advance on education, projects to more equitably share wealth/property, efforts to cultivate public/community spaces, etc).

### Katelyn Harvey

Location:

Submitted At: 10:22am 01-20-22

I want you for a just second to put yourself in the shoes of someone who is in Jail or a family that has someone in jail. Especially right now with covid going on alot of people can BARELY make it by. Now add the expense of jail cost to their weekly/monthly bills. It's hard. Very hard.

If you're an inmate at the county OR HOC and you don't have a friends or family that can afford an extra expense you don't get to call loved ones and you don't get to video call loved ones. Sometimes that's what helps them get by. That 20 minute phone call is what really keeps their head up and allows them to keep fighting. Just imagine that for a second, your in a place that is already in horrible conditions due to covid and other issues and to add to that you can't afford to call anyone. I believe in my heart of hearts that if you pass this bill it will not only help the inmates but it will help the community as a whole. Look at the bigger picture! And please just for a second put yourself in their shoes or their families shoes. It's hard for everyone involved. Less make it just a little easier. Let's lift the spirits and really show people we CARE!

### Sean Schueler

Location:

Submitted At: 10:11am 01-20-22

I am in full support of this resolution as it is crucial that families stay in contact with their loved ones who are incarcerated. This is important for mental and emotional health for not only the inmates but the community at large. I would argue that this should be extended to friends and other connections inmates may have within the community as well for the same reason.

**Alan Schultz**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:44am 01-20-22

As a formerly incarcerated person, who has witnessed and been at the butt end of these fees, as someone who has organized and advocated for many years around this state and our county's carceral systems--I support ALL (not just 75 minutes) communications be made free and accessible to those detained and their loved ones.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in being able to return successfully to the community is the connections and supports we retain throughout our being confined.

Also, considering how many people incarcerated in this County are severely impoverished it makes no sense to continue to penalize the still free for loving and wanting to be in contact with their detained loved one.

Many of the people in our county system are awaiting trial, awaiting preliminary hearings, or are serving small terms for an offense they were convicted of that did not require them being sent to prison. Why are we choosing to sever these folks ties to their community and loved ones when those are the people most likely to be where these individuals return? Why make their support system more dysfunctional or their ability to communicate be so costly and therefore inaccessible?

If the goal is to "rehabilitate" then I'd suggest quit preventing access of loved ones to those detained, allow the support of those loved ones to be communicated, and allow for families and communities to stay connected rather than fragmenting them and then punishing the free loved ones for caring about someone confined.

Quit trying to further impoverish the already impoverished, these sorts of predatory profiteering motives being present in the carceral system causes far more violence than it prevents over the long haul.

**AMANDA SWAN**

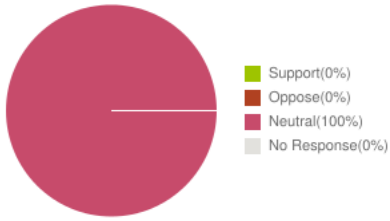
Location:

Submitted At: 8:58am 01-20-22

I firmly support the resolution to provide residents of Milwaukee County's correctional facilities with AT LEAST 75 minutes of free video calls per week and AT LEAST 75 minutes of free voice calls per week. Contact with loved ones is essential for a person's wellbeing and it's weird that the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff and the House of Correction would want to profit off of that.

Agenda Item: eComments for 2 21-1004 From the Chief Deputy, Office of the Sheriff and the Superintendent, House of Correction, are requesting authorization to enter a three-year, Professional Service Agreement with Inmate Calling Solutions LLC d/b/a ICSolutions from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 with three (3) one (1) year renewal options or on a month-to-month basis to provide resident communication services to the Milwaukee County Jail and the House of Correction. (Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services for INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY per Section 59.52(31)(d), Wisconsin State Statutes; Referred to the Committee on Finance)

## Overall Sentiment



## Ax DeLessio-Parson

Location:

Submitted At: 12:17pm 01-20-22

As a resident in Milwaukee County, I am wondering why we do not have government telecommunications services. I also do not appreciate the 'Inmate Calling Solutions' name of this LLC. In general, I would like to see much more effort made by County Government to directly provide services (rather than contract out with LLC) - by 2024, I would like to see a plan in place that involves public ownership over such services (along with greater long-term commitment to reduce incarcerated population, removing governmental incentives to fill facilities).