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TO: Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic

FROM: Colleen Foley, Deputy Corporation Counsel

RE: Voter Registration Program

DATE: November 18, 2014

As requested by the Board, a resolution creating a Voter Registration Program ordinance is attached. The ordinance establishes six (6) voter registration sites, provides for Special Registration Deputies (SRDs), outlines requirements for voter registration packets, and provides related procedures.

The Board, by Resolution 14-333, directed the Office of Corporation Counsel to implement a Voter Registration Program to allow Milwaukee County residents to register to vote at locations where they apply for, renew, or update information for the receipt of Milwaukee County services. On October 23, 2014, this office presented an informational memorandum to the Judiciary Committee, dated October 9, 2014, which is attached.

Individual SRD numbers must be assigned by each participating Milwaukee County municipal clerk regardless of a universal training. Therefore, the Special Registration Deputies (SRD) from the identified benefit sites must undergo the process required by each of these municipal clerks, which may involve a workday of travel by the SRDs to those offices.

The Resolution also recommended that the Voter Registration Program include automated text message voter alerts for pending elections. However, the County lacks both internal technology and dedicated funds in the 2015 budget for this option to be immediately implemented. Nor is there a dedicated funding source for promotion of the Voter Registration Program at this time. It is recommended that a determination of which department bears these costs and in what manner be addressed in the 2016 budget cycle. Again, since the Milwaukee County Clerk now heads up the Milwaukee County Election Commission, that office is the likely candidate to spearhead and bear future costs related to this Program. The Program can nonetheless proceed with existing signage at the designated sites.