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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Requesting and directing the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the
7 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to explore options to create a
8 county-wide health department for the purpose of establishing a centralized and
9 uniformed department that all local health leaders in Milwaukee County can convene
10 together to coordinate emergency public health responses, consolidate services, and
11 eliminate health disparities amongst communities
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14 WHEREAS, municipalities in Milwaukee County (the County) have approximately
15 11 health departments that provide services for 951,448 residents of the County,
16 services which includes preparing for public health emergencies, investigating infectious
17 and communicable diseases, environmental health services, vital statistics records and
18 more; and
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20 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
21 provides crucial emergency services, to prepare the County for disasters, inform
22 communities of critical situations in the County, provide emergency medical services,
23 911 communication and more; and
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25 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services
26 provides care for children, youth and their families in Milwaukee County, services which
27 includes, behavioral health, youth and family, disabilities and housing; and
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29 WHEREAS, the County and the local health departments have a common
30 interest to improve the health and lives of all residents of the County as both entities
31 share many of the same administrative and service needs; and
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33 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee is considered one of the most segregated
34 cities in the United States, resulting in wide health disparities among its racial
35 populations; and
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37 WHEREAS, in File No. 19-387 Milwaukee County declared racism as a public
38 health crisis and vowed to advocate for relevant policies that improve health in
39 communities of color, and support local, state, and federal initiatives; and

40 WHEREAS, Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 states that, "Wisconsin must address
41 persistent disparities in health outcomes and the social, economic, educational, and
42 environmental inequities that contribute to them"; and
43

44 WHEREAS, in May 2017, the Wisconsin Public Policy Forum published a report
45 titled "Exploring Public Health Service Sharing and Consolidation in Oak Creek and
46 South Milwaukee" and
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48 WHEREAS, the report recommended consolidation of those health departments
49 citing shared administrative costs, enhanced services, shared data collection, and
50 greater programmatic efficiency; and
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52 WHEREAS, the report noted that the Health Departments' of West Allis and West
53 Milwaukee successfully merged as well as the North Shore Health Department; and
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55 WHEREAS, consolidation of health departments would create communication
56 transparency that ensures everyone is receiving the same information and the County
57 will be able to further aid the most vulnerable population and decrease health disparities
58 amongst communities in the County; and
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60 WHEREAS, a consolidated health department would also be more effective in
61 communicating and coordinating with area health care systems that are a critical
62 component of our community's health; and
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64 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Legislature will need to make changes to the
65 State Statutes to allow Milwaukee County to create a county-wide health department;
66 and
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68 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
69 September 10, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-540 (vote 5-0); now,
70 therefore,
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72 BE IT RESOLVED, the Office of Emergency Management shall work in
73 conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services and others, such as the
74 Wisconsin Public Policy Forum, to explore options to create a county-wide health
75 department; and
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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Emergency Management and the
78 Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a written report to the
79 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors during the October 2020 cycle.
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09/10/20

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