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5 **A RESOLUTION**
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7 authorizing and requesting the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff and the
8 Milwaukee County House of Correction implement an incentive program encouraging
9 incarcerated individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and approving the use of
10 funds allocated for emergency COVID-19 purposes as outlined in File No. 20-937 to
11 provide money for inmate accounts if they choose to receive a COVID-19 vaccine
12 during their stay
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15 WHEREAS, in June 2020, the Pews Research Center conducted a study
16 examining the likelihood of individuals to take an eventual COVID-19 vaccine and found
17 that while 74 percent of Hispanic and white adults would be willing to take a vaccine,
18 only 54 percent of Black adults would definitely take a vaccine if it were to become
19 available; and
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21 WHEREAS, vaccine hesitancy is reflected in Wisconsin's current vaccination
22 rates, with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services reporting as of June 28, 2021
23 that 50.1 percent of eligible individuals of all races and genders have received at least
24 one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; and
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26 WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, Black individuals have the lowest overall vaccination
27 rates with only 25.7 percent of eligible Black individuals receiving at least one dose,
28 compared to 46 percent of white individuals, 47.9 percent of Asian individuals, and 32.5
29 percent of Native American individuals; and
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31 WHEREAS, as of June 24, 2021, the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency
32 Management is reporting a vaccination rate of 46 percent in Milwaukee County and, of
33 those vaccinated, 53 percent were white, 51 percent were Asian, 49 percent were
34 Native American, 37 percent were Hispanic or Latino, and 28 percent were Black; and
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36 WHEREAS, people of color in Milwaukee County are less likely to receive the
37 COVID-19 vaccine due to vaccine hesitancy, accessibility of appointments, and lack of
38 educational outreach; and
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40 WHEREAS, people of color experience vaccine and medical hesitancy because
41 of a long history of racist treatment in the healthcare system; and
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43 WHEREAS, in 1932, the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study was conducted,
44 which purported to study and treat 600 Black men for "bad blood", although they were

45 given treatments that were known to be ineffective and were blacklisted by doctors in
46 the community and municipal health departments from receiving outside treatment for
47 their syphilis; and
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49 WHEREAS, overall, people of color experience negative health outcomes at
50 higher rates than any other group, including in Milwaukee County; and
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52 WHEREAS, the 2016 infant mortality rate in Milwaukee County among Black
53 mothers was 13.1 deaths per 1,000 births, compared to their white counterparts, a rate
54 of 4.9 deaths per 1,000 births; and
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56 WHEREAS, in 2016, Black mothers were connected to prenatal care during their
57 first and third trimesters at 59.8% and 9.7% respectively, while white mothers received
58 prenatal care during their first and third trimesters at 78.6% and 3.3% rates in
59 Milwaukee County; and
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61 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 19-397 in April 2019 declaring
62 racism as a public health crisis, committing to changing internal policies and practices
63 that contribute to racial inequities as an organization, and advocating for policies and
64 practices that improve the health of communities of color; and
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66 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 20-174 in April 2020, creating
67 Chapter 108 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances with the stated goal
68 of achieving racial equity in order to make Milwaukee County the healthiest county in
69 Wisconsin and with the mission of enhancing the quality of life in Milwaukee County;
70 and
71

72 WHEREAS, at the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Committee on Judiciary, Safety,
73 and General Services, the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff reported that 46
74 percent of currently incarcerated individuals and 49 percent of jail staff have received a
75 COVID-19 vaccine, which comports with Milwaukee County's current overall vaccination
76 rate; and
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78 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's healthcare provider at the jail and House of
79 Correction (HOC), Wellpath, has administered 1,293 individual COVID-19 vaccine
80 doses since it has become available; and
81

82 WHEREAS, at the June 10, 2021 meeting of the Committee on Judiciary, Safety,
83 and General Services, the HOC reported that 47 percent of incarcerated individuals and
84 51 percent of HOC staff have received a COVID-19 vaccine, which is slightly better than
85 Milwaukee County's overall vaccination rate; and
86

87 WHEREAS, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, people have color have
88 been disproportionately affected and there have been 69,405 positive cases of COVID-

89 19 in the City of Milwaukee, with 31.8 percent of those cases being Black residents,
90 29.6 percent being Hispanic residents, 28.9 percent being white residents, and 4.7
91 percent being Asian residents; and
92

93 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that the social
94 and economic impacts of COVID-19 will be significantly reduced when a critical mass of
95 people in any given population are vaccinated against it; and
96

97 WHEREAS, municipalities, states, and private businesses are offering a variety
98 of incentives encouraging people to get the COVID-19 vaccine, including free items,
99 food, experiences, and cash; and
100

101 WHEREAS, to effectively encourage individuals to take the COVID-19 vaccine,
102 many different strategies should be employed, including offering deposits into inmate
103 accounts, which they can use for food, personal items, phone and video calls, and other
104 amenities; and
105

106 WHEREAS, in File No. 20-937, Milwaukee County set aside \$5.0 million for
107 COVID-19 efforts and a portion of these funds could be used to cover the cost of the
108 inmate vaccine incentive program; and
109

110 WHEREAS, it is the goal of Milwaukee County to encourage the health of all its
111 residents, including the incarcerated population, by successfully administering the
112 COVID-19 vaccine to as many people as possible; and
113

114 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of July 26, 2021,
115 recommended adoption of File No. 21-632 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
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117 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby supports
118 the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine at the jail and House of Correction and
119 encourages incarcerated individuals and staff receive the vaccine as soon as possible;
120 and
121

122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff and
123 the Milwaukee County House of Correction are hereby authorized and requested to
124 implement a vaccine incentive program, with an end date of December 31, 2021,
125 providing a one-time payment of \$50, credited to an inmate's trust account, if they
126 receive the first, or single, dose of the COVID-19 vaccine while in custody; and
127

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, incarcerated individuals shall receive their \$50
129 payment in their inmate trust account following the administration of the first dose of a
130 two-dose vaccine or the single dose vaccine, which shall be deposited into their account
131 no more than three business days after receiving the first dose; and
132

133 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services is
134 authorized to make a payment from the funds appropriated in File No. 20-937 to the
135 House of Correction trust account (Fund 59180, Agency 998, Org 9180, Account 34005)
136 in the amount of \$44,000 and to the Office of the Sheriff trust account (Fund 59170,
137 Agency 998, Org 9170, Account 34031) in the amount of \$121,000, which will then be
138 allocated to individual accounts held within those trust accounts when individuals meet
139 the criteria for the \$50 incentive, with the understanding that a full reconciliation will be
140 made to refund to the County any unallocated funds; and

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142 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the House of Correction and the Office of the
143 Sheriff are requested to provide a joint report to the Milwaukee County Board of
144 Supervisors for the December 2021 committee cycle reporting on the efficacy of the
145 incentive program and their recommendation as to whether the program should be
146 extended into 2022.

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