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A resolution by Supervisor Lipscomb, Sr., establishing a policy directing the prioritization of Federal Community Development Block Grant dollars allocated to Milwaukee County (the County) toward projects in the County, which improve local community and economic development rather than routine public works maintenance, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (the Act) created the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, administered by the United States (U.S.) Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, in the Act, the U.S. Congress (Congress) articulated that, “The primary objective of this title is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.”; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services administers the Milwaukee County’s (the County) CDBG dollars and advises the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors of the CDBG allocation, ranking projects competitively based on the criteria of:

- Project approach
- Need and justification
- Benefit to low and moderate-income persons
- Target population and jurisdiction
- Capacity and experience
- Financial controls and budget
- Past CDBG performance

; and

WHEREAS, for 2019, HUD allocated more than \$1.6 million in CDBG dollars to the County, and the County received more than \$250,000 in requests from municipalities for basic municipal public works, such as construction or maintenance of curbs or sidewalks, and renovating public buildings contained in Adopted File No. 18-856; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of moneys to basic public works projects, while permissible, violates the spirit of the CDBG program, as established by Congress; and

45 WHEREAS, the Committee on Economic and Community Development, at its
46 meeting of March 11, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-153 (vote 5-0); now,
47 therefore,
48

49 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) establishes the policy of
50 prioritizing the award of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding
51 allocation to municipalities and non-profit organizations whose projects shall work
52 toward improving the general welfare and economic status of low and moderate-income
53 persons in the County; and
54

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its scoring system, the County shall reduce the
56 priority of awarding CDBG dollars to municipalities or non-profits for basic public works
57 or administrative functions including but not limited to:
58

- 59 • Construction or reconstruction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, or roads
- 60 • Construction or renovation of buildings, which do not expressly serve the
61 purpose of improving the general welfare or economic opportunities for
62 low and moderate-income persons

63 ; and
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65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County expects municipalities and local
66 non-profit organizations awarded CDBG dollars through the County demonstrate
67 objectively how the grant improves housing, the general welfare, or economic
68 opportunities of County citizens of low and moderate incomes, as determined by the
69 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development so the County can
70 prioritize applications over those that do not offer improvement in those areas; and
71

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests that the Department of
73 Health and Human Services modify its CDBG policies and project scoring criteria to
74 effectively implement this policy and communicate it to potential applicants.
75

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77 ars

78 03/11/19

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