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5 **A RESOLUTION**

6
7 Supporting municipal public health facemask ordinances and calling upon State of
8 Wisconsin policymakers to implement a statewide facemask policy to mitigate the
9 spread and hasten the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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12 WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and
13 Prevention (CDC), the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is highly contagious,
14 spreading easily from person to person in close proximity via airborne droplets from
15 breathing, coughing, and sneezing; and

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17 WHEREAS, according to the CDC, as of July 14, 2020, COVID-19 has caused
18 more than 135,000 deaths in the United States in half a year, more than double US
19 average annual influenza deaths and the US death toll in Vietnam, greater than 44
20 times the nearly 3,000 dead from the September 11 Terrorist Attacks, and more than 56
21 times the more than 2,000 servicemen dead at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; and

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23 WHEREAS, on June 30, the Council of the European Union announced as of
24 July 1, 2020, citizens of certain countries would be permitted to travel to the European
25 Union (EU), and the United States was not on the list as the US has not met the EU's
26 criteria relating to containment of COVID-19; and

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28 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Department of Health Services data show as of July 14
29 that newly reported COVID-19 cases are trending upward, showing Wisconsin has not
30 successfully contained the spread of COVID-19; and

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32 WHEREAS, on July 9, 2020, the *Wall Street Journal* reported in "Behind New
33 Covid-19 Outbreaks: America's Patchwork of Policies", nationwide there "is a dizzying
34 mix of rules and guidelines that can differ widely...[which] to health officials it is an
35 ineffective way to manage a pandemic."; and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers told
36 MSNBC journalist Ali Velshi, "We're the Wild West," on May 13, 2020 due to the
37 Wisconsin Supreme Court willfully misreading statutes (File No. 20-301); and

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39 WHEREAS, the County Executive directed in Administrative Order 20-14v1 that
40 County employees must wear facemasks on duty at County property or when making
41 home visits, and the public must wear masks at County-owned indoor facilities, outdoor

42 facilities with controlled entry points, and recommends the public wear masks elsewhere
43 on County property, including at the airport and on buses (File No. 20-26); and
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45 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works and Transit, at its
46 meeting of July 8, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-528 (vote 5-0), requiring
47 passengers and operators wear facemasks on all Milwaukee County Transit System
48 (MCTS) buses; and
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50 WHEREAS, Public Health Madison and Dane County on July 7, 2020 issued
51 Emergency Order #8, effective July 13, which requires individuals aged five and older in
52 Dane County to cover their noses and mouths:
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- 54 • In any enclosed building where others could be present, except at one's home
- 55 • In line to enter any indoor space
- 56 • Any form of publicly available transportation aside from one's personal vehicle
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58 ; and
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60 WHEREAS, on July 8, 2020 the Village of Shorewood Board of Trustees
61 unanimously amending Chapter 319 of the Village of Shorewood Code of Ordinances,
62 becoming the first municipality in southeastern Wisconsin to require face coverings in
63 public; and on July 13, 2020, the City of Milwaukee Common Council unanimously
64 passed the resolution in File No. 200426, modifying Chapter 62 of the City of Milwaukee
65 Code of Ordinances to require the use of facemasks indoors and outdoors under
66 specified conditions for the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
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68 WHEREAS, enacting common sense procedures will mitigate the spread and
69 hasten the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
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71 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its special meeting of July 21, 2020,
72 recommended adoption of File No. 20-571 (vote 6-0); now, therefore,
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74 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) supports the respective
75 ordinances from the Village of Shorewood and City of Milwaukee and the County calls
76 upon the 17 other County municipalities to adopt similar resolutions; and
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78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County encourages the Governor of
79 Wisconsin and Secretary-Designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to
80 enact a Statewide facemask policy; and
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82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests Office of Government Affairs
83 staff collaborate with the Milwaukee County municipalities, Wisconsin Governor, and
84 legislature on the policy outlined in this resolution; and requests the County Clerk
85 furnish a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Governor and legislative leadership.

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88 07/21/2020

89 S:\Committees\2020\July\FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING July 21\Resolutions\20-571 Nicholson & Czarnecki - COVID

90 19 Facemask Policy - no edits.docx