

1 Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Health and Human Needs, reporting on:

3
4 File No. 15-636
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7 (ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Rainey, Dimitrijevic, Weddle, Romo West,
8 Moore Omokunde, Broderick, Johnson Jr., and Jursik urging the Milwaukee County
9 Executive to develop an Office on African American Affairs, by recommending adoption
10 of the following:

11
12 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**
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14 WHEREAS, it is the public policy of Milwaukee County (the County) to ensure
15 equal opportunity for all of its citizens; and

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17 WHEREAS, the County has the largest and most ethnically diverse population in
18 Wisconsin; and

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20 WHEREAS, according to Department of Health Services (DHS), the County is
21 home to 240,203 African Americans, comprising 69.4 percent of Wisconsin's African
22 American population and the largest minority group in Wisconsin; and

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24 WHEREAS, according to DHS, nearly 90 percent of Wisconsin's African
25 American population lives within its six southeastern counties: Milwaukee, Dane,
26 Racine, Kenosha, Rock, and Waukesha; and

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28 WHEREAS, the County has the greatest percentage of African American
29 residents at 25.6 percent; and

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31 WHEREAS, Wisconsin ranks last in the nation regarding the overall well-being of
32 African American children based on an index of 12 measures that gauge a child's
33 success from birth to adulthood; and

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35 WHEREAS, according to the Nation's Report Card, based on eighth grade math
36 scores among the states, Wisconsin is tied with Nebraska for the highest score gap
37 between African American and Caucasian students; and

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39 WHEREAS, additionally, a report prepared for the State of Wisconsin,
40 Department of Public Instruction, found that the trend of the Wisconsin Knowledge and
41 Concept Examinations over five academic years, from 2008-2013, indicated that the
42 Black-White achievement gap continues to widen for both reading and mathematics;
43 and

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45 WHEREAS, a University of California-Los Angeles report discovered
46 Wisconsin's Kindergarten through Grade 12 schools suspend African American high

47 school students at the highest rate nationally, and with the second-highest disparity of
48 suspension rates between African American and Caucasian students; and
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50 WHEREAS, the 2010 United States Census Bureau showed Wisconsin having
51 the highest African American male incarceration rate in the nation, with over 50 percent
52 of African American males, in their 30's, residing in the County having served prison
53 time; and
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55 WHEREAS, a study by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood
56 Johnson Foundation revealed that Wisconsin has the highest rate of obesity in African
57 American adults at 45.8 percent; and
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59 WHEREAS, African Americans age 65 or older are more likely to live in poverty,
60 compared to a 6.7 percent rate for Caucasians; and
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62 WHEREAS, Forbes Magazine's March 2011 edition, listed the Milwaukee
63 Metropolitan Area as last among 52 cities in the United States for minority
64 entrepreneurship; and
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66 WHEREAS, the creation of an Office on African American Affairs is integral to
67 recognizing and resolving the County's racial inequities for the benefit of all of its
68 citizenry, and for the region to achieve its full potential; and
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70 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
71 October 28, 2015, recommended adoption of this amended resolution (vote 6-0); now,
72 therefore,
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74 BE IT RESOLVED, the creation of an Office on African American Affairs in
75 Milwaukee County (the County) include as its objectives: the examination and definition
76 of issues central to the rights and needs of African Americans; recommendations for
77 changes in programs and laws that disparately impact African Americans; development
78 and implementation of policies, plans, and programs related to the special needs of
79 African Americans; and promotion of equal opportunities for African Americans; and
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81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Milwaukee
82 County Office on African American Affairs advise the Milwaukee County Executive,
83 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Milwaukee County Department Directors, and
84 general public on the views and needs of African American communities concerning
85 inequality of:

- 86 • Health Metrics
- 87 • Education
- 88 • Food Deserts
- 89 • Unemployment
- 90 • Young people and Children

- 91 • Affordable Housing
92 • High disproportionate numbers of African Americans in the prison system
93 • Small Business Creation

94
95 ; and
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97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Office on
98 African American Affairs devise strategies to address the public policy concerns of the
99 African American community through its partnerships with County departments, State
100 agencies, corporations, and foundations; and

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102 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Office on
103 African American Affairs serve as a conduit for programs, grants, research, and policy
104 advice for State and local organizations in addressing concerns that are unique to the
105 African American community of the County; and

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107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the specific charge
108 of the Office on African American Affairs is to:

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- 110 • Review and comment on any proposed Federal/State/County/City legislation and
111 regulations that would affect the African American population in Milwaukee
112 County
 - 113 • Advise and provide information to the County Executive on County
114 policies concerning African American Communities
 - 115 • Advise the County Executive concerning the coordination and administration of
116 programs serving African American communities
 - 117 • Maintain a liaison between African American Communities and governmental
118 entities
 - 119 • Encourage African American representation at all levels of County government,
120 including county boards and commissions
 - 121 • Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the
122 African American population of the County
 - 123 • Prepare and submit to the County Executive an annual report concerning its
124 activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the African
125 American population in the County; and

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127 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to guarantee the independence of the Office
128 on African American Affairs, the Milwaukee County Board urges the County Executive
129 to create the Office on African American Affairs within the Office of the Comptroller; and
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131 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive will report back to the
132 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors regarding this resolution within 45 days of its
133 adoption.
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136 ars
137 10/28/15\
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