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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Mandating the use of facemasks or face coverings by all passengers and operators on  
7 Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) buses to mitigate the spread and infection  
8 rate of COVID-19  
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11 WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Centers for Disease  
12 Control and Prevention (CDC), as of June 29, 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has killed  
13 more than 126,000 Americans, double the loss of American life in Vietnam and more  
14 than double the average annual U.S. influenza deaths; and  
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16 WHEREAS, as of June 29, 2020, according to the Wisconsin Department of  
17 Health Services, there have been at least 777 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in  
18 Wisconsin; and according to the Office of Emergency Management, there have been at  
19 least 354 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Milwaukee County; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the CDC reports older adults and people with certain preexisting  
22 medical conditions are at increased risk for complications and severe illness from  
23 COVID; while minorities, due to preexisting socioeconomic health disparities, are  
24 predisposed and suffering disproportionately from COVID-19; and  
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26 WHEREAS, COVID-19 transmits from person to person primarily from individuals  
27 in close proximity to each other via airborne water droplets and therefore the County  
28 Executive ordered a universal face mask policy in Administrative Order 20-14v1 in and  
29 on County premises to protect the health and safety of the public and County  
30 employees (File No. 20-26); and  
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32 WHEREAS, even with capacity limitations, individuals riding Milwaukee County  
33 Transit System (MCTS) buses remain enclosed in relatively close proximity to each  
34 other sharing the same air which may carry the COVID-19 virus; and  
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36 WHEREAS, according to an April 3, 2020 National Public Radio article titled,  
37 "Take This Serious': Bus Driver Dies of COVID-19 After Calling Out Coughing Rider",  
38 Detroit bus operator Jason Hargrove died of COVID-19 approximately two weeks after  
39 he posted a viral video on YouTube criticizing a rider who coughed multiple times  
40 without covering her mouth and calling for everyone to be considerate of the health of  
41 others; and

42 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the CDC recommend everyone  
43 wear cloth face coverings, particularly indoors in public settings, as it may mitigate the  
44 person-to-person spread of airborne water droplets from breathing, coughing, and  
45 sneezing, as healthcare workers do in medical clinics and hospitals to protect others by  
46 not spreading one's own germs; and

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48 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its  
49 meeting of July 8, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-528 (vote 5-0); now,  
50 therefore,

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52 BE IT RESOLVED, effective August 1, 2020, the Milwaukee County Board of  
53 Supervisors hereby amends the County Executive's Administrative Order 20-14v1 to  
54 require all passengers and operators, excepting persons with medical conditions and  
55 children under age six, to wear some form of face covering while on Milwaukee County  
56 Transit System (MCTS) buses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the  
57 safety of those at greater risk of acquiring complications from COVID-19; and

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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, bus operators shall enforce the policy at the same  
60 time and manner as fare collection is made; and

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62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCTS shall provide a limited number of  
63 disposable, single-use masks to the public for those without access to a mask.

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