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From Corporation Counsel, Milwaukee County Office of Corporation Counsel, requesting authorization to commence legal action to collect delinquent accounts owed to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner’s Office by funeral homes with outstanding balances in excess of \$25,000, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Medical Examiner, Office of the Medical Examiner (Medical Examiner) is statutorily authorized to assess and collect fees for services rendered pursuant to Sections 59.36 and 59.38(1), Wisconsin State Statutes (State Statutes); and

WHEREAS, these fees support essential public safety and public health functions, including death investigations, autopsies, and related statutory duties performed on behalf of Milwaukee County (the County) residents; and

WHEREAS, despite the Medical Examiner’s efforts to obtain unpaid fees, certain funeral homes have accumulated significant outstanding balances that exceed \$25,000, with some dating back multiple years; and

WHEREAS, these unpaid balances represent a material financial impact to the Medical Examiner and the County, undermining fiscal stability and equitable cost recovery; and

WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC) is charged under Sections 59.42(2)(b)(1) and (2), State Statutes, with prosecuting civil actions and protecting the County’s legal and financial interests; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of delinquent accounts supports the County’s Strategic Goal 3B: “Enhancing the County’s fiscal health and sustainability by ensuring lawful and timely collection of revenues owed to the County”; and

WHEREAS, failure to pursue these outstanding balances exposes significant risks to the County, including financial losses, inequitable treatment among funeral homes, and potential write-offs of receivables owed to the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.11(c)(5)2(b), Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, requires OCC to obtain approval from the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors before commencing any suit where the amount claimed exceeds \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Law Enforcement, and General Services, at its meeting of March 10, 2026, recommended adoption of File No. 26-301 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

47 BE RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
48 hereby authorizes Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC), to
49 commence legal action to collect delinquent accounts owed to the Medical Examiner,
50 Office of the Medical Examiner, by funeral homes with outstanding balances of \$25,000
51 or more; and

52
53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Corporation Counsel, OCC, is authorized and
54 requested to provide a report to the County Board, as soon as practicable, and to
55 provide periodic updates regarding collection actions and litigation progress.

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57 Adopted by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors this ____ day of March
58 2026.

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61 _____
62 County Clerk

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64 ars
65 03/10/26
66 S:\Committees\2026\March\JLEGS\Resolutions\26-301 occ request legal action against delinquent funeral homes
67 ars.docx