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(ITEM ) A resolution by Supervisor Mayo, Sr., urging the Milwaukee County Executive to develop an autonomous Office on African American Affairs, in accordance with the policy guidelines created by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board), in a unanimous vote, adopted File No. 15-636 urging the Milwaukee County Executive to create an Office on African American Affairs (the Office) and laying out policy guidelines for the Office; and

WHEREAS, the adopted resolution urged that the Office be independent, and suggested that it be created in the Office of the Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, as part of the approved policy guidelines the Office will advise the Milwaukee County Executive, the County Board, department directors, and the general public on the rights and needs of African American communities concerning inequality of:

- Health Metrics
- Education
- Food Deserts
- Unemployment
- Young People and Children
- Affordable Housing
- High Disproportionate Numbers of African Americans in the Prison System
- Small Business Creation

; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes prohibit the County Board from creating new departments and confers that responsibility directly to the Milwaukee County Executive; and

WHEREAS, to provide funding for the initiative, the County Board unanimously approved an amendment to the 2016 Adopted Budget to appropriate \$300,000 to staff and operate the new Office, contingent on the Milwaukee County Executive creating the Office; and

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WHEREAS, in a Milwaukee County Executive communication dated February 1, 2016, to the County Board asking for the monies to be released, the Milwaukee County Executive outlined his plans to create and house the new Office within the Milwaukee County Executive's Office, while rejecting the suggestion it be placed under the Office of the Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, in light of the Milwaukee County Executive's communication, it is the strong preference of the County Board that the Office be created as a new, separate department led by a Director that is appointed by the Milwaukee County Executive and subject to confirmation by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Office to be effective in its work and pursuit of equality for all, it is imperative that the Office is autonomous; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit, at its meeting of May 19, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) supports and respectfully requests that the Milwaukee County Executive create the Office on African American Affairs (the Office) as an autonomous office that is able to provide unbiased advice to Milwaukee County leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to ensure the independence of the Office, the Office's Director should be appointed by the Milwaukee County Executive and confirmed by the County Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any future action to release the funds to staff and operate the Office is contingent upon the Milwaukee County Executive appointing the Director of the Office, as a separate department head, and submitting the candidate to the County Board for confirmation.

jmj  
05/19/16  
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