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5 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

6
7 Urging state legislators to adopt legislation requiring drivers to utilize hands-free
8 technology to reduce the likelihood of distraction-related crashes
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11 WHEREAS, distracted driving poses a significant risk to public safety,
12 contributing to preventable traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities; and
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14 WHEREAS, thirty states including four of Wisconsin's five neighboring states, the
15 District of Columbia, Guam, the Northern Marina Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S.
16 Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using handheld cellphones while driving; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) reported that
19 in 2023, distracted driving was a factor in 9,261 crashes statewide, in which 23 people
20 were killed and 3,586 people were injured; and
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22 WHEREAS, Wisconsin legislators have previously adopted laws to prevent
23 distracted driving and promote public safety, including banning texting while driving,
24 prohibiting the use of handheld mobile devices in construction zones, and banning
25 individuals with probationary licenses from using a cell phone while driving; and
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27 WHEREAS, WisDOT and other traffic safety partners launched the "Zero in
28 Wisconsin" campaign to promote the vision of zero fatalities and incapacitating injuries
29 on our roadways; and
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31 WHEREAS, Sixty-two percent of Wisconsin's distracted driving crashes occurred
32 in urban areas; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Motor Vehicle Collision Dashboard reports
35 that between January 1, 2024 and November 30, 2024 there were 1,900 crashes
36 involving a distracted driver, eight of which resulted in fatal injuries; and
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38 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved File No. 24-
39 624 on July 31, 2024, committing to achieving Vision Zero by 2037 with the goal of zero
40 fatalities and serious injuries on County roadways; and

41 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation has developed
42 the Milwaukee County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan to enhance public safety by
43 implementing traffic calming measures at intersections and along roadways identified as
44 high-risk "Corridors of Concern"; and

45
46 WHEREAS, in 2021 state legislators introduced bipartisan Assembly Bill
47 338/Senate Bill 348 which proposed measures to restrict the use of handheld mobile
48 devices while operating a motor vehicle, requiring drivers to utilize hands-free
49 technology to reduce the likelihood of distraction; and

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51 WHEREAS, adopting a hands-free law in Wisconsin is consistent with
52 recommendations from transportation safety experts and organizations such as the
53 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), which has documented the
54 effectiveness of hands-free legislation in reducing distracted driving-related crashes;
55 and

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57 WHEREAS, prohibiting all drivers from using handheld cellphones while driving
58 would reduce crashes resulting from distracting driving, support the goals of Vision Zero
59 and the Milwaukee County Comprehensive Safety Plan, and save lives; and

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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), at its meeting
62 of January 31, 2025, laid over File No. 25-147 to the Call of the Chairperson (vote 5-0);
63 and

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65 WHEREAS, IGR, at its meeting of March 3, 2025, recommended adoption of File
66 No. 25-147 as amended (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

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68 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
69 expresses its strong support for the reintroduction and adoption of Wisconsin 2021 AB
70 338 or similar legislation by the State Legislature to implement hands-free driving
71 requirements; and

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73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that since traffic stops have historically**
74 **disproportionally impacted people of color, implementation of this safety**
75 **measure should not be used as a pretense to request citizenship status or**
76 **immigration documentation from any driver; and**

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78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Office of Government
79 Affairs is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the
80 Governor, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties
81 Association to encourage statewide support for this critical public safety measure.

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