By Supervisor Logsdon File No. 22-334

**A RESOLUTION**

Condemning the rise of crime in Milwaukee County and supporting State of Wisconsin legislation which would curb the ability of repeat offenders to menace the public by reforming statutes relating to bail and when suspects are released from prison while awaiting legal proceedings

WHEREAS, anecdote and data show an increase of crime in Milwaukee County, alarming County citizens and neighbors:

* A perceivable increase in reckless driving, precipitating the creation of a City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force
* According to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) unified crime reporting data, Milwaukee County endured 198 homicides in 2020, the most since 1985 and jumping from a recent high of 153 in 2016
* According to Milwaukee Police Department crime statistics, there were 194 homicides in the City of Milwaukee alone in 2021
* According to FBI unified crime reporting data, in 2020 there were 4,021 automobile thefts, an increase from a twenty-first century low in 2019
* According to Milwaukee Police Department crime statistics, in 2021 there were 10,479 automotive thefts in the City of Milwaukee alone

; and

WHEREAS, according to the January 13, 2022 *Wall Street Journal* article titled, “Man Accused of Killing Six at Waukesha Christmas Parade Faces Additional Charges,” a perpetrator used a red sport utility vehicle to drive through a crowd of people marching in the City of Waukesha’s annual Christmas parade in November 2021, killing six and injuring more than 60; the man who has since been charged with 77 various counts of first degree intentional homicide, reckless endangerment, and hit and run resulting in death; and

WHEREAS, according to a November 24, 2021 *Wall Street Journal* article titled, “The Waukesha Parade Suspect Was Out on Bail. Now the DA is Probing How Bail Is Set,” the alleged perpetrator of the Waukesha massacre has a long criminal record, and allegedly committed the Waukesha massacre after a domestic dispute with the mother of his child relating to November 5, 2021 charges of disorderly conduct and recklessly endangering safety when he allegedly punched the mother and drove over her with his vehicle; with those charges he was out on a $1,000 cash bail; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Julian Bradley of the City of Franklin is sponsoring legislation reforming Wisconsin statutes to keep the public safe from individuals who repeatedly commit crimes, including 2021 Wisconsin Senate Bill (SB) 856, SB 857, and SB 858; and

WHEREAS, SB 856 and its companion, 2021 Wisconsin Assembly Bill (AB) 838, would according to Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) analysis:

“Under current law, a judge may release a person charged with a crime without bail, or may release the defendant only if he or she executes an unsecured appearance bond, or may require a defendant to execute a secured bond to be released. Under this bill, a judge may not release a defendant without bail or on an unsecured bond if the defendant has a previous conviction for a felony or a violent misdemeanor. Such a defendant may be released only if he or she executes a secured bond or deposits cash in lieu of a bond in an amount of at least $10,000.”

; and

WHEREAS, SB 857/AB 839, would according to LRB analysis:

“This bill requires the Department of Justice to collect from the Director of State Courts all of the following information for each crime charged: 1) the county in which charges were filed; 2) the name of the prosecuting attorney assigned to the case; 3) the name of the judge assigned to the case; 4) the criminal charge filed; 5) for each criminal charge filed, whether the judge released the defendant without bail, upon the execution of an appearance bond with sufficient solvent sureties, or upon the deposit of cash in lieu of sureties, or denied release under s. 969.035; 6) for each criminal charge for which a judge required the execution of an appearance bond with sufficient solvent sureties, the monetary amount of the bond; 7) for each criminal charge for which a judge required the deposit of cash in lieu of sureties, the monetary amount of cash required and 8) for each criminal charge filed, any other conditions of release imposed on the defendant.

“Under the bill, DOJ must publish an annual report using the data collected on its Internet site in an interactive format, and also submit a report on the data to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees.”

; and

WHEREAS, SB 858/AB 840, would according to LRB analysis:

“Under current law, a judge may release a person charged with a crime without bail, or may release the defendant only if he or she executes an unsecured appearance bond, or may require a defendant to execute a secured bond to be released. Under this bill, a judge may not release a defendant without bail or on an unsecured bond if the defendant has a previous conviction for bail jumping. Such a defendant may be released only if he or she executes a secured bond or deposits cash in lieu of a bond in an amount of at least $5,000.”

; and

WHEREAS, the criminal justice system must balance rehabilitation of criminal offenders back into society while protecting the safety and property of the general public, and addressing the systemic causes of crime while holding individuals accountable for their mal-actions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby unequivocally condemns the behavior of those who have been emboldened to violate public order, public safety, and life, limb, and property of Milwaukee County residents, thereby increasing the crime rate in Milwaukee County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby declares support for the following State of Wisconsin legislation:

* 2021 Senate Bill (SB) 856 and its companion, 2021 Assembly Bill (AB) 838
* SB 857/AB 839
* SB 858/AB 840

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the Wisconsin Governor and State policymakers, and support legislation that achieves the criteria outlined in this resolution.