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5 **A RESOLUTION**

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7 Calling on social media companies including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube,
8 and Twitter to revise and enforce their policies to meaningfully and measurably
9 discourage content and comments glorifying car thefts and reckless driving, and to
10 leverage their vast influence and communities of influencers to create a public service
11 campaign to help youth understand the severe impacts that car thefts and reckless
12 driving can have on individuals and on communities
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15 WHEREAS, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on January 14, in a
16 headline with the same text: “Over 11,500 vehicles were stolen across the Milwaukee
17 area in 2021. The Trend doesn’t seem to be stopping anytime soon.”; and
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19 WHEREAS, Fox6Now.com reported on December 14, 2021 in a headline with
20 the same text: “Milwaukee stolen vehicle crimes double, half the arrests [are] kids 16
21 and under”; and
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23 WHEREAS, stolen cars are often driven recklessly across Milwaukee County,
24 leading to property damage, injuries, deaths, and fear among law-abiding motorists,
25 bicyclists, and pedestrians, a perceivable increase precipitated the creation of a
26 Milwaukee City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force; and
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28 WHEREAS, on October 21, 2021, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported in a
29 headline with the same text: “A 13-year-old Milwaukee boy is charged as an adult, six
30 felonies in connection with a fatal hit-and-run of a 47-year-old woman in Wauwatosa”;
31 and
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33 WHEREAS, according to FBI unified crime data, in 2020 there were 4,021
34 automobile thefts, an increase from a twenty-first century low in 2019, meanwhile
35 according to Milwaukee Police Department crime statistics, in 2021 there were 10,479
36 automotive thefts in the City of Milwaukee alone; and
37

38 WHEREAS, individuals who steal vehicles and drive recklessly often post videos
39 of their illegal activity on social media platforms in pursuit of clout and status; and
40 according to a December 6, 2021 article titled, “Half of Milwaukee’s Car Thefts By
41 Children,” written by *Urban Milwaukee*, “[T]hose stealing and recklessly driving are

42 informally called the ‘Kia Boyz’ by multiple social media accounts that have glamorized
43 the act,” while further stating, “No evidence suggests it’s a concentrated group of
44 individuals.”; and

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46 WHEREAS, the policies and guidelines proffered by Facebook, Instagram,
47 TikTok, and Twitter, hereto attached to this file, do not explicitly prohibit posts, photos,
48 or videos depicting or glorifying vehicle thefts and reckless driving – however, many
49 social media platforms do explicitly ban content that glorifies or promotes terrorism,
50 organized crime, hate groups, sexual services, the sale of drugs and firearms, self-
51 harm, graphic violence, and nudity; and

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53 WHEREAS, TikTok merely adds disclosure language in a small font to videos
54 depicting reckless driving that, “Participating in this activity could result in you or others
55 getting hurt”; and

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57 WHEREAS, on November 6, 2021, Fox6Now.com in an article titled, “Milwaukee
58 reckless driving: Public health crisis declaration sought,” community advocates have
59 described reckless driving in Milwaukee as a “public safety emergency” and called for a
60 comprehensive approach to reducing vehicle thefts and reckless driving; and

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62 WHEREAS, as private businesses, social media platforms have it within their
63 power to amplify, limit, and restrict content as it deems appropriate without infringing
64 upon an individual’s rights protected by the First Amendment; and

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66 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
67 meeting of March 10, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-340 (vote 5-0);
68 now, therefore,

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70 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby calls
71 upon social media platforms including but not limited to TikTok, Instagram, Twitter,
72 YouTube, and Facebook to revise and enforce their policies to meaningfully and
73 measurably discourage content and comments glorifying car thefts and reckless driving;
74 and

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76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
77 hereby calls upon social media platforms to leverage their vast influence and
78 communities of influencers to create a public service campaign to help youth
79 understand the severe impacts that car thefts and reckless driving can have on
80 individuals and on communities; and

81

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
83 encourages social media platforms to continue to work proactively with law enforcement
84 by providing content that might help to reduce reckless driving and car thefts in the
85 future; and

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized
87 and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the relevant officials at
88 TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter to support the criteria outlined in
89 this resolution.

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