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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 requesting the Office of the Sheriff and the Milwaukee County House of Correction
7 implore residents in the care of Milwaukee County housed at the Criminal Justice
8 Facility and the Milwaukee County House of Correction to get the COVID-19 vaccine
9 within seven days of being housed at either facility to slow the spread of the
10 Coronavirus

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13 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic has been a global public
14 health concern since the end of 2019 when it was first discovered abroad and has been
15 a severe crisis in the United States since February 2020; and

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17 WHEREAS, as of January 10, 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO)
18 reports there have been 305,914,601 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5,486,304
19 deaths globally; and

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21 WHEREAS, the seven-day average for new COVID-19 positive cases in
22 Milwaukee County as of January 10, 2022, was 900 and six deaths; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Office of the Sheriff and the House of Correction (HOC) reported
25 a significant surge in residents testing positive for COVID-19 during the same time; and

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27 WHEREAS, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Office of the Sheriff
28 and the HOC report the surge in COVID-19 cases in the detention facilities has severely
29 impacted operations, including reduced recreation time for residents, laundry services,
30 hot meal distribution, court operations, and more; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 21-
33 632 authorizing a COVID vaccine incentive program for residents housed at the
34 Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) and the HOC; and

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36 WHEREAS, residents that choose to get their initial dose of Pfizer, Moderna, or
37 single-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine were issued a one-time payment of \$50
38 credited to their inmate trust account starting in August 2020 through December 2021;
39 and

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41 WHEREAS, at the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Committee on Judiciary,
42 Safety, and General Services the vaccine incentive program was reauthorized until
43 December 31, 2022; and

44 WHEREAS, according to the Milwaukee County COVID-19 dashboard tracker on
45 December 26, 2021, 59 percent of residents housed at the HOC and 44 percent of
46 residents housed at the CJF were fully vaccinated against COVID-19; and
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48 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) states that
49 COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against severe disease and death
50 from the virus that causes COVID-19 and the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the
51 risks; and
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53 WHEREAS, in November 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
54 reported that unvaccinated Wisconsinites were diagnosed with COVID-19 at a rate five
55 times higher than vaccinated Wisconsinites, were hospitalized at a rate 11 times higher
56 than vaccinated Wisconsinites, and died from COVID-19 at a rate 12 times higher than
57 vaccinated Wisconsinites; and
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59 WHEREAS, data from the Peterson Center on Healthcare and the Kaiser Family
60 Foundation concludes that the average hospitalization cost associated with COVID-19
61 is about \$20,000, and from June 2021 through November 2021, preventable COVID-19
62 hospitalizations among unvaccinated adults cost over \$13 billion dollars nationally ; and
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64 WHEREAS, severe mitigation efforts are prudent given the challenges presented
65 by COVID-19 variants and achieving a higher percentage of fully vaccinated residents
66 will slow the spread of COVID-19 in each facility along with mask wearing, limiting close
67 contact, and regular cleaning of high traffic areas; and
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69 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is mandated to ensure the health and safety of
70 residents in our care, which includes providing medical services for residents and
71 strongly encourages residents housed in our detention facilities to do their part and get
72 vaccinated to slow the spread of COVID-19; and
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74 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
75 meeting of March 10, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-330 (vote 3-1);
76 now, therefore
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78 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors urges the Office
79 of the Sheriff and the Milwaukee County House of Correction to take action to
80 encourage residents housed at each facility to get vaccinated within seven days of
81 being housed to slow the spread of COVID-19; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of the Sheriff and the House of Correction shall provide a written report to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors during the May 2022 cycle that outlines efforts taken to address vaccination hesitancy amongst residents, efforts taken to increase resident vaccinations, the total number of vaccinations provided year to date, and the balance of funding available for the vaccine incentive program.

03/10/22
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