

1 By Supervisors Burgelis, Clancy, Rolland, Shea,  
2 Vincent, Zerpa, Alexander, Logsdon, Martinez,  
3 Taylor (District 17), Martin, Taylor (District 5), and  
4 Johnson, Jr.

File No. 22-556

5  
6 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**  
7

8 Supporting the people of Ukraine and condemning the unprovoked aggression and war  
9 crimes committed by Russian Federation soldiers in Ukraine  
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11 WHEREAS, tens of thousands of Eastern Europeans immigrated to Milwaukee  
12 County between 1870 and 1920, and after the Second World War, for economic  
13 opportunity and freedom of religious and cultural expression; resulting in Milwaukee  
14 being known as a city of immigrants with a strong Polish and Slavic influence, retaining  
15 and celebrating a diverse ethnic presence in Milwaukee County; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, many immigrant Americans share cultural, linguistic, religious, and  
18 historical kinship with Ukrainians, similarly suffering under repression from the Russian  
19 Empire and later Soviet Union; as Ukrainians enjoyed liberation in 1918, and repression  
20 again in 1921, not regaining their freedom from Russian communist tyranny until 1991;  
21 and  
22

23 WHEREAS, both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are Member States of the  
24 United Nations, having ratified the United Nations Charter as founding Member States  
25 in 1945, and then both acceded their membership respectively from the Union of Soviet  
26 Socialist Republics and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1991; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Chapter I, Article 1(3-4), of the United Nations Charter states:  
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30 "3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such  
31 a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.  
32

33 "4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use  
34 of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in  
35 any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."  
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37 ; and  
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39 WHEREAS, the Russian Federation has repeatedly violated the territorial  
40 integrity and political independence of Ukraine, beginning first with the occupation of the

Crimean Peninsula, and starting and supporting an armed insurrection in the eastern Ukrainian Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in 2014; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation began a full-scale, totally unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, cynically calling it a “special military operation”, meanwhile other statements by Russian despot Vladimir Putin describe the brutal attack for what it is: A revanchist war of conquest to rebuild the Russian Empire secure strategic resources and weaken Western resolve in its principles and institutions; and

WHEREAS, after it became clear victory would not be swift, Russian soldiers committed war crimes, including indiscriminate targeting of civilian housing, hospitals, schools and a nuclear power plant with artillery, rockets, and missiles, particularly in Mariupol and Russian-speaking Kharkiv; and then robbing, torturing, raping and murdering civilian noncombatants, most notoriously thus far in Bucha; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2018, the City of Milwaukee established a sister city relationship with the Ukrainian city of Irpin to foster friendship and dialogue necessary to strengthen foreign relations on a municipal level and promote a greater understanding of both Ukrainian and American culture; and

WHEREAS, as part of Russia’s objectives to capture the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, Russian forces brutally besieged Irpin and perpetrated horrific human rights abuses against residents; and despite overwhelming odds, the people of Irpin bravely resisted the Russian advance, and the Ukrainian military liberated the city from the Russian invaders; and

WHEREAS, the laws of war established in the Geneva Conventions, of which both Ukraine and the Russian Federation are party to, forbid the targeting and violation of liberty of civilian noncombatants; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of March 31, 2022, more than 10.5 million civilians have been displaced in Ukraine or abroad as refugees, and an estimated 13 million people in Ukraine are estimated to have “urgent need of humanitarian assistance. . .”; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Milwaukee County residents celebrate their Ukrainian heritage by honoring their cultural and religious traditions, including St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church founded in 1949 and at its current site since 1953, and St. Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church Founded in 1917, both in the City of Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, among many other individuals and groups, Ukrainian Americans and ethnic Slavic groups or the descendants thereof in Milwaukee County who have historic, cultural, and linguistic ties to Ukrainians, and a history of experiencing Russian repression, **and residents of varied backgrounds**, have contributed toward raising awareness of Russian war crimes against Ukrainians, and organizing efforts of donations and humanitarian and defensive shipments to help Ukrainians in urgent need of supplies, including these examples:

- **The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel newspaper, in its February 28, 2022 article, “Here’s how Wisconsin and beyond can help support Ukrainian people in need,” provided links as to how its readership could support Ukrainian humanitarian efforts**
- WUWM 89.7 FM reported in a web article on March 10, 2022 that around 100 people of Milwaukee’s Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Holy Trinity Church in the City of Wauwatosa marched for peace and solidarity with the people of Ukraine
- The Polish Center of Wisconsin in the City of Franklin reported on Facebook on March 31, 2022 that it raised more than \$150,000 from more than 700 donors **and has since further promoted and facilitated donations**
- The Rotary Club of Milwaukee, as a lead participant with the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America’s effort to send medical supplies to Ukraine, on April 9, 2022, sorted almost 10 tons of equipment valued at up to \$10 million which was flown to Poland for distribution in Ukraine
- The 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Wisconsin Ukrainians, Inc., **announced at its May 16, 2022 board meeting that the organization** has raised more than **\$90,000 \$217,000** and shipped more than 115,000 pounds of humanitarian and defensive equipment **as of April 12, 2022 and continues to fundraise and raise awareness for the Ukrainian cause**
- Ukrainian native Valentyn Potapenko and Milwaukee County resident, helped raise more than \$50,000, as noted in the April 13, 2022 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article, “This Ukrainian native, who now lives in Wauwatosa, has raised nearly \$50,000 to help Ukrainian families and military members”
- **Milwaukee’s Latino newspaper, *El Conquistador* (“The Conqueror”), and UMOS, a Milwaukee-based Latino social service and advocacy organization, included a fundraising booth staffed by members of St. Michael’s Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at its May 5, celebration of the**

Mexican holiday, *Cinco de Mayo* (“May 5”), a holiday celebrating the Mexican defeat of a far superior French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862; as reported in the May 7, 2022 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article titled, “Milwaukee’s Cinco de Mayo festival includes Ukrainians as show of support and shared spirit”

- Lakefront Brewery in the City of Milwaukee has a partnership with the Fozzy Group outside of Kyiv, and has since March 3, 2022 sold beer can crowlers supporting Ukraine with approximately 2/3 of the price donated to humanitarian relief in Ukraine; and reported on Facebook on May 12, 2022 that it had raised more than \$106,000 so far

; and

WHEREAS, the people of Ukraine ought to be able to choose their own destiny free of foreign coercion, joining the free peoples of the West if they so desire; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of May 17, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-556 as amended (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the people of Milwaukee County stand with the people of Ukraine, affirm our support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and we hereby condemn the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and Milwaukee County expresses its sincerest best wishes and support to the people of Ukraine during this troubling time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County requests the County Clerk provide this resolution to the State of Wisconsin Congressional Delegation and the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States.

05/17/22

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