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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., and Dimitrijevic to reinvest a portion of Milwaukee County budget surpluses into Transit Signal Priority Technology, Parks Infrastructure Improvements, and Employee Compensation, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the **2013** budget surplus was initially \$21.6 million prior to transferring approximately \$16.6 million to the Debt Service Reserve (DSR) to establish an official year-end surplus of \$5 million; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Comptroller (the Comptroller) is projecting that **2014** will end with an initial surplus of approximately \$25 million; and

WHEREAS, policymakers recently approved transferring all 2014 surplus funds above \$5 million to the DSR; and

WHEREAS, final post-closing entries are still being made which may impact the amount that will be transferred to the DSR; and

WHEREAS, the DSR is projected to have a year-end 2014 balance of at least \$38 million; and

WHEREAS, the DSR balance is the largest year-end balance in at least 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Budget includes a contribution of \$6.3 million allocated from the DSR, which will leave the DSR with a projected balance of \$32.3 million; and

WHEREAS, in a report dated May 28, 2015, the Comptroller is projecting that the **2015** budget will produce a surplus of \$20 million based on information submitted by departments after the first four months of the year; and

WHEREAS, the DSR is one of Milwaukee County's (the County) only mechanisms to establish a reserve for future debt service payments and other fiscal challenges due to the structural budget deficits that are projected to continue in the upcoming years; and

WHEREAS, the County has made many prudent fiscal decisions related to controlling employee compensation and fringe benefit costs, reducing outstanding debt, reducing costly office space, and implementing numerous cost-saving efficiencies in departmental budgets; and

46 WHEREAS, it is important that the County reinvest a portion of these annual
47 surpluses into programs and assets that provide benefits to County residents and to
48 employees that have helped generate the significant surpluses; and
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50 **Transit Signal Priorities**

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52 WHEREAS, the County operates the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS)
53 through the contract with Milwaukee Transport Services, Inc. (MTS), a quasi-
54 governmental entity that provides essential transportation services to the community;
55 and
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57 WHEREAS, there are increasingly more opportunities to enhance the speed,
58 efficiency, and desirability of public transit on high-use routes; and
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60 WHEREAS, MTS operates more than 50 routes, including numerous routes on
61 the Wisconsin Avenue corridor such as the Gold Line from the University of Wisconsin
62 Milwaukee campus, the 30 and 30X from Sherman Boulevard, and the 31 from State
63 Street to Highland Avenue; and
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65 WHEREAS, Transit Signal Priority equips buses and traffic signals with devices
66 that grant priority as they approach, often producing five to ten percent reductions in bus
67 travel times; and
68

69 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee has already installed this technology in some
70 of its traffic signals, including the stretch along Wisconsin Avenue; and
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72 WHEREAS, according to a March 2015 report from the Public Policy Forum¹,
73 MTS is planning on using Transit Signal Priority in the future on a short stretch of
74 Wisconsin Avenue; and
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76 WHEREAS, the County should utilize this technology and provide resources to
77 implement Traffic Signal Priority and to obtain expert advice on how to position MCTS to
78 supplement non-tax levy funding for additional bus service enhancements in the future,
79 especially as expressway reconstruction continues in the Milwaukee area; and
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81 **Parks Infrastructure Improvements**

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83 WHEREAS, a 2009 audit by the Audit Services Division estimated that deferred
84 maintenance needs likely exceed \$200 million in the Milwaukee County Parks System;
85 and
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87 WHEREAS, the 2015 Adopted Capital Improvements Budget authorized an
88 additional \$9.15 million in general obligation bonds, for a total of approximately \$17.2
89 million to make high-priority infrastructure improvements within the Parks System; and

¹ *Picking Up The Pace: An analysis of best practices for improving bus speeds and their potential applicability to Milwaukee.* Public Policy Forum, March 2015.

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WHEREAS, there are many park infrastructure needs that are **not** eligible for general obligation bond financing and must be cash financed within either the Parks' Operating Budget or the Capital Improvement Budget; and

WHEREAS, an investment in cash-financed improvements to park infrastructure would result in significant benefits that are likely to enhance operating efficiency, reduce ongoing costs, and/or provide the community aesthetic evidence of park maintenance; and

WHEREAS, park improvement projects proposed by the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture and submitted to the Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) for review and recommendation, would help ensure that park projects are well vetted by the public and policymakers; and

Employee Compensation

WHEREAS, County employees (and eligible retirees) have significantly increased their contributions in recent years to employee health and dental insurance coverage, and pension benefits; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the county-wide surpluses generated in recent years, as well as projected for 2015, are due to savings in the employee fringe benefit accounts; and

WHEREAS, most employees have not been granted step wage increases for the past three years, and some employees have not received increases for several years; and

WHEREAS, general cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to help offset the impact of inflation have been minimal; since 2012 most employees have received a total of 2.5 percent in COLAs (1.5% in May 2013 and 1% in April 2014), while the Consumer Price Index (Inflation) for the Milwaukee area indicates the cost of living rose approximately 4.1 percent from 2012 through 2014; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Adopted Budget does not include any funds for COLAs or step increases for employees, while inflation and higher health care contributions continues to erode the purchasing power of employee pay; and

WHEREAS, the unusually large surpluses for the past two years, coupled with a sizable surplus projected for 2015, provide the County with an opportunity to provide employees with a modest COLA to acknowledge their sacrifice and service in helping to generate these budget savings; and

WHEREAS, while the budget surpluses are a positive development for addressing the County's overall financial position and future budget challenges, it is also

136 important to reinvest a portion of the funds into areas that will strengthen the Transit
137 System, Parks, and the employees that help to provide these programs and services;
138 and
139

140 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit, at its meeting of
141 July 15, 2015, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 9-0); now, therefore,
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143 **Transit Signal Priorities**

144
145 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
146 hereby authorizes the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (OPSB),
147 Department of Administrative Services (DAS), to process an appropriation transfer to
148 allocate \$1.5 million from the Debt Service Reserve (Org. 9960) to designated Capital
149 Improvement accounts to implement Transit Signal Priority along the Wisconsin Avenue
150 corridor from Downtown Milwaukee to the Medical Complex in Wauwatosa; and
151

152 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the monies appropriated for Transit Signal Priority
153 shall be held in an allocated contingency within the Capital Improvement budget, and
154 shall require County Board approval for its use pending a report from the Director of
155 Transportation and/or the Director of Milwaukee Transport Services as to the specific
156 plan on how the funds will be spent for Traffic Signal Priority equipment, and any related
157 costs to improve service along the critical Wisconsin Avenue corridor; and
158

159 **Parks Infrastructure Improvements**

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161 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes the
162 expenditure of \$5 million for park infrastructure projects that are **not** eligible for general
163 obligation bond financing; and
164

165 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of the Department of Parks,
166 Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) is hereby requested to submit to the Capital
167 Improvements Committee (CIC) a list of \$4 million in high priority park infrastructure
168 projects that are likely to enhance operating efficiency, reduce ongoing costs, and/or
169 provide the community aesthetic evidence of park maintenance; and
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171 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the remaining \$1 million shall be appropriated
172 immediately to the DPRC to be used strictly for small projects (major maintenance)
173 under \$100,000 that can be contracted immediately to help reduce future costs; and
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175 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC shall provide a written report back to
176 the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment in the September 2015 cycle on the
177 progress of the selected projects; and
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179 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the County Board reviews and approves the
180 recommendations put forth by the CIC, the OPSB, DAS, is authorized to process an
181 appropriation transfer to contribute \$4 million from the Debt Service Reserve (Org.

182 9960) to Capital Improvement Budget accounts, as approved by the Office of the
183 Comptroller, to provide proper oversight of the expenditures on the proposed park
184 projects; and

185

186 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OPSB, DAS, is authorized to process an
187 appropriation transfer that is structured to enable a contribution of \$1 million from the
188 Debt Service Reserve (Org. 9960) to the DPRC accounts to begin high priority major
189 maintenance projects as soon as possible; and

190

191 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any contributions from the Debt Service Reserve
192 (Org. 9960) through appropriation transfers shall be used to decrease the amount of
193 sales tax that is required to fund the Capital Improvements Budget in order to provide
194 funding for the items outlined in this resolution; and

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Employee Compensation

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198 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes a one and
199 one-half percent (1.5%) cost of living adjustment (COLA) for general non-elected
200 employees² not otherwise covered by a separate labor bargaining agreement effective
201 Pay Period 14 beginning June 21, 2015; and

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203 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes the OPSB,
204 DAS, to process an appropriation transfer to allocate \$969,097 from the 2015
205 Appropriation for Contingencies account to departmental accounts to provide funding for
206 the employee COLA for the last half of the year.

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² This COLA does not apply to Department of Health and Human Services-Behavioral Health Division (DHHS-BHD) employees. 2013 Wisconsin Act 203 designates the County Executive and Milwaukee County Mental Health Board with setting salaries of DHHS-BHD staff. The County Executive and the Mental Health Board recently approved a one percent (1%) COLA to DHHS-BHD staff in good standing effective July 5, 2015.