

1 Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chairperson,
2 From the Committee on Health and Human Needs, reporting on:

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4 File No. 15-636
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7 (ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Rainey, Dimitrijevic, Weddle, Romo West,
8 and Moore Omokunde urging the Milwaukee County Executive to develop an Office on
9 African American Affairs, by recommending adoption of the following:

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11 **AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**
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13 WHEREAS, it is the public policy of Milwaukee County (the County) to ensure
14 equal opportunity for all of its citizens; and

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16 WHEREAS, the County has the largest and most ethnically diverse population in
17 Wisconsin; and

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19 WHEREAS, according to Department of Health Services (DHS), the County is
20 home to 240,203 African Americans, comprising 69.4 percent of Wisconsin's African
21 American population and the largest minority group in Wisconsin; and

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23 WHEREAS, according to DHS, nearly 90 percent of Wisconsin's African
24 American population lives within its six southeastern counties: Milwaukee, Dane,
25 Racine, Kenosha, Rock, and Waukesha; and

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27 WHEREAS, the County has the greatest percentage of African American
28 residents at 25.6 percent; and

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30 WHEREAS, Wisconsin ranks last in the nation regarding the overall well-being of
31 African American children based on an index of 12 measures that gauge a child's
32 success from birth to adulthood; and

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34 WHEREAS, according to the Nation's Report Card, based on eighth grade math
35 scores among the states, Wisconsin is tied with Nebraska for the highest score gap
36 between African American and Caucasian students; and

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38 WHEREAS, additionally, a report prepared for the State of Wisconsin,
39 Department of Public Instruction, found that the trend of the Wisconsin Knowledge and
40 Concept Examinations over five academic years, from 2008-2013, indicated that the
41 Black-White achievement gap continues to widen for both reading and mathematics;
42 and

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44 WHEREAS, a University of California-Los Angeles report discovered
45 Wisconsin's Kindergarten through Grade 12 schools suspend African American high
46 school students at the highest rate nationally, and with the second-highest disparity of

47 suspension rates between African American and Caucasian students; and

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49 WHEREAS, the 2010 United States Census Bureau showed Wisconsin having
50 the highest African American male incarceration rate in the nation, with over 50 percent
51 of African American males, in their 30's, residing in the County having served prison
52 time; and

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54 WHEREAS, a study by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood
55 Johnson Foundation revealed that Wisconsin has the highest rate of obesity in African
56 American adults at 45.8 percent; and

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58 WHEREAS, African Americans age 65 or older are more likely to live in poverty,
59 compared to a 6.7 percent rate for Caucasians; and

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61 WHEREAS, Forbes Magazine's March 2011 edition, listed the Milwaukee
62 Metropolitan Area as last among 52 cities in the United States for minority
63 entrepreneurship; and

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65 WHEREAS, the creation of an Office on African American Affairs is integral to
66 recognizing and resolving the County's racial inequities for the benefit of all of its
67 citizenry, and for the region to achieve its full potential; and

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69 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
70 October 28, 2015, recommended adoption of this amended resolution (vote 6-0); now,
71 therefore,

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73 BE IT RESOLVED, the creation of an Office on African American Affairs in
74 Milwaukee County (the County) include as its objectives: the examination and definition
75 of issues central to the rights and needs of African Americans; recommendations for
76 changes in programs and laws that disparately impact African Americans; development
77 and implementation of policies, plans, and programs related to the special needs of
78 African Americans; and promotion of equal opportunities for African Americans; and

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80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Milwaukee
81 County Office on African American Affairs advise the Milwaukee County Executive,
82 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Milwaukee County Department Directors, and
83 general public on the views and needs of African American communities concerning
84 inequality of:

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- Health Metrics
- Education
- Food Deserts
- Unemployment
- Young people and Children
- Affordable Housing

- 91 • High disproportionate numbers of African Americans in the prison system
92 • Small Business Creation

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94 ; and

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96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Office on
97 African American Affairs devise strategies to address the public policy concerns of the
98 African American community through its partnerships with County departments, State
99 agencies, corporations, and foundations; and

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101 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the Office on
102 African American Affairs serve as a conduit for programs, grants, research, and policy
103 advice for State and local organizations in addressing concerns that are unique to the
104 African American community of the County; and

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106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is the policy of the County that the specific charge
107 of the Office on African American Affairs is to:

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109 • Review and comment on any proposed Federal/State/County/City legislation and
110 regulations that would affect the African American population in Milwaukee
111 County
112 • Advise and provide information to the County Executive on County
113 policies concerning African American Communities
114 • Advise the County Executive concerning the coordination and administration of
115 programs serving African American communities
116 • Maintain a liaison between African American Communities and governmental
117 entities
118 • Encourage African American representation at all levels of County government,
119 including county boards and commissions
120 • Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments and contributions of the
121 African American population of the County
122 • Prepare and submit to the County Executive an annual report concerning its
123 activities with any appropriate recommendations concerning the African
124 American population in the County

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126 ; and

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128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Executive will report back to the
129 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors regarding this resolution within 45 days of its
130 adoption.

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