By Supervisor Lipscomb, Sr. File No. 17-161

# **A RESOLUTION**

Requesting the Milwaukee County Pension Board hold its meetings in the County Courthouse to allow live video streaming and archiving of matters related to the governance of the Employes’ Retirement System

WHEREAS, Chapter 201 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, “County Employes’ Retirement System” (“ERS”) delegates responsibility to a Pension Board for “(t)he general administration and responsibility for the proper operation of the retirement system and for making effective the provisions of this ordinance..;” and

WHEREAS, the ERS provides a valuable retirement benefit to eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County taxpayers and employees contribute significantly to ERS; in 2016, the County contributed nearly $60 million to the pension fund and paid approximately $33.1 million towards debt service on previously-issued pension obligation bonds, while employees contributed more than $13.1 million towards the cost of their retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Board is an independent body that holds its general monthly meetings at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, while some subcommittees meet in Courthouse meeting rooms; and

WHEREAS, one of the advantages of holding the general monthly meetings in the Courthouse is the ability to live video stream for the benefit of those who wish to watch open session proceedings or review past meetings that would be archived on the County’s Granicus Legistar system; and

WHEREAS, the County Board Chairman first offered this opportunity for greater transparency via communication on November 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, barriers raised to holding Pension Board meetings in the Courthouse include access to nearby parking, lengthy security screening, and meal service availability can be addressed by the Department of Administrative Services - Facilities Management staff to ensure volunteer board members are not inconvenienced; and

WHEREAS, greater accessibility by the public, policymakers, and staff to Pension Board meetings would provide greater accountability and transparency to the governance and operation of the County’s ERS; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby supports and respectfully requests that the Milwaukee County Pension Board hold its general monthly meetings in the Milwaukee County Courthouse in a room that is equipped to live video stream the proceedings and archive the recording in the Granicus Legistar system for access to all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED, that the County Board shall accommodate the Pension Board meeting schedule by prioritizing the use of Room 203-R, or other suitable and equipped meeting space, over other non-County Board users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director, Retirement Plan Services, is requested to collaborate with the Director of the Department of Administrative Services – Facilities Management Division to remedy any barriers to holding general Pension Board meetings in the Milwaukee County Courthouse.