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3 A resolution by Supervisors Sebring and Logsdon, requesting and authorizing the study
4 of creating a new classification of Transit Security Officer in the Office of the Sheriff, to
5 improve security throughout the Milwaukee County Transit System, by recommending
6 adoption of the following:
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8 **A RESOLUTION**
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10 WHEREAS, a 2017 audit of the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) by
11 SRF Consulting, commissioned by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, found
12 MCTS to be “an efficient transit system with dedicated employees...”; and
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14 WHEREAS, MCTS bus drivers provide exemplary service to the community, as
15 evidenced by national and international news coverage of their life-saving acts and
16 other good deeds; and
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18 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) wishes to maintain the reputation its
19 drivers bring, along with their quality provision of transit service for residents and County
20 guests; and
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22 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2018, as reported by the local media, three
23 assailants assaulted a MCTS bus driver, which adversely impacts the safe environment
24 for drivers and passengers, which is sought for the bus system; and
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26 WHEREAS, during testimony on File No. 18-547, policymakers learned MCTS
27 loses approximately \$337,000 per year from fare evasion, and debated the MCTS policy
28 and bus driver preference to not confront fare evaders beyond asking once to pay the
29 required fare; and
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31 WHEREAS, at the cost of approximately \$1.5 million annually, MCTS’ current
32 contract with a private security firm yields 1,360 hours of service per week, providing a
33 visual security presence on buses, intersection checks with bus drivers verifying
34 security status, and fare enforcement, but security officers lack the legal authority a
35 sworn officer possesses; and
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37 WHEREAS, due to higher priority calls, the Milwaukee Police Department and
38 the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) typically do not prioritize responses for
39 fare evasion and minor incidents, despite these issues adversely impacting the
40 experience of drivers and riders; and

41 WHEREAS, MCTS may benefit from the presence of sworn law enforcement
42 officers who are held in higher regard by the public, and possess more authority to
43 respond more effectively to those disruptive to bus operations; and
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45 WHEREAS, numerous transit systems within and outside the United States
46 employ variations of transit police for security purposes, and it may be in the best
47 interest of the County and MCTS to create a new classification of Transit Security
48 Officer under the direction of the MCSO, and to reallocate the monies presently spent
49 per year on private security; and

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51 WHEREAS, the Committee on Transportation, Public Works, and Transit, at its
52 meeting of January 23, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-135 (vote 5-0);
53 now, therefore,

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55 BE IT RESOLVED, staff from the Department of Human Resources, working in
56 conjunction with Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) officials, the Office of the
57 Sheriff, the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of the Comptroller, and
58 others who may inform the conversation, shall study the feasibility of:

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60 • How Milwaukee County (the County) might create a separate classification of
61 officer to serve as transit security, overseen by the Sheriff's Department, with the
62 power to make lawful arrests, and issue citations for disorderly conduct, fare
63 evasion, and other acts detrimental to the experience of MCTS drivers and users

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65 • Including sources of continual funding including, but not limited to, State and
66 Federal law enforcement grants

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68 ; and

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70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the group shall furnish a report to the Milwaukee
71 County Board of Supervisors no later than the May 2019, meeting cycle regarding the
72 feasibility of establishing a classification of Transit Security Officer within the County'
73 Sheriff's Office, that could assume the duties and responsibilities currently provided by a
74 private vendor, and the possibility of State and Federal grants for continual funding.

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