By Supervisor Weishan, Jr. File No. 20-203

**A RESOLUTION**

Requesting the Department of Administrative Services Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget and the Office of the Comptroller analyze Chapter 3 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances and provide guidance related to county supervisory district apportionment and the impact of 2013 Wisconsin Act 14 on the potential number of County Board districts

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (the “Board”) currently consists of 18 supervisory districts, with each district serving approximately 53,000 constituents; and

WHEREAS, the Board was, for many years, divided into 25 districts serving smaller amounts of constituents, allowing for more direct representation of their district, especially in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the Board shrunk to 19 districts in 2005 and 18 districts in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Wisconsin Act 14 (“Act 14”) severely limited the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors by reducing the Board’s operating budget and reducing the terms of office from four-years to two-years, among many changes to transfer power and authority from the Board to the Milwaukee County Executive; and

WHEREAS, Act 14 instituted a tax levy cap for the Board’s annual budget of no more than 0.4 percent of the total tax levy, which is not imposed on any other county board in the State; and

WHEREAS, Act 14 applies exclusively to Milwaukee County, which is home to the largest portion of Wisconsin’s communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s budget includes salaries for all 18 Supervisors, salaries and benefits for staff, office accounts for constituent communications, and funding for general office needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has restructured to fit within the confines of the tax levy cap, including creating bigger districts and fewer representative seats, hiring less support staff for district offices, and offering less constituent communications and outreach; and

WHEREAS, larger districts with fewer representatives can often lead to less direct representation of citizens as representatives are responsive to a more diverse group of people; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO) governs the apportionment of County Board districts; and

WHEREAS, File No. 15-691 amended Chapter 3 of the MCGO to direct that any new redistricting plan shall be developed by an independent citizen redistricting panel (Independent Redistricting Committee or IRC) that redraws supervisory districts in the best interest of the citizens of Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, the number of supervisory districts is determined by the Board per the MCGO Chapter 3.01(3) and redistricting, as recommended by the IRC, will occur after the certification of the 2020 federal decennial population census; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the number of supervisory districts to 27 will allow greater representations of all communities in Milwaukee County, including the densely populated City of Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, analysis of Act 14 and its limitations on the ability of the Board to expand its number of districts may be helpful to the Board and citizens of Milwaukee County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department of Administrative Services Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, in conjunction with the Office of the Comptroller, shall analyze the practical implications of 2013 Wisconsin Act 14 on the number of Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supervisory districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the analysis shall provide what impact 2013 Wisconsin Act 14 will have on the establishment of 27 supervisory districts beginning with the 2022 term; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a report shall be provided back to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors no later than the July 2020 cycle for consideration prior to the 2020 redistricting.