

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

A resolution/ordinance by Supervisors Alexander and Logsdon, to amend Section 9.02(1) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO) to establish in the County Ethics Code a uniform threshold for reporting gifts, honorarium fees, and expenses, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (the Code), Section 9.02(1) states that “anything of value” means any money or property, favor, service, payment, advancement, forbearance, loan, or promise of future employment, business, or other consideration having a value greater than \$25, but does not include compensation and expenses paid by the county, fees and expenses which are permitted and reported under Section 9.14 of the Code political contributions which are reported under ch.11, Wis. Stats., or hospitality extended for a purpose unrelated to county business by a person other than an organization; and

WHEREAS, Section 9.14(2)(a) of the Code states that, "except as provided for in paragraph (b), every county public official or employee who is required to file a statement of economic interests, pursuant to section 9.03 and who receives any lodging, transportation, money or other thing with a combined pecuniary value exceeding \$50.00 not including the value of food or beverage offered coincidentally with a talk or meeting, shall report on his/her statement of economic interests the identity of every person from whom the county public official received such lodging, transportation, money or other things during the preceding taxable year, the circumstances under which it was received, and the approximate value thereof;" and

WHEREAS, the Code establishes two different thresholds for reporting requirements on its statement of economic interests, a \$25 threshold applies to gifts and a \$50 threshold applies to honoraria, or fees and expenses, or anything else of value paid by a third-party for conference attendance, meetings, or speaking engagements; and

WHEREAS, in November 2017, Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC), reviewed the Code of Ethics, (Chapter 9 of the Code) and recommended "...an amendment to Chapter 9, so that the dollar threshold for both “gifts” under Sections 9.02 and 9.05 is equal to the dollar threshold under Section 9.14 (i.e., \$50 or some other amount);" and

WHEREAS, the Code of Ethics for the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin require a statement of economic interest reporting of honorarium, fees, and expenses of \$50 or greater; and

45 WHEREAS, Corporation Counsel, OCC, recommended that Milwaukee County
46 (the County) amend Chapter 9 of the Code so that the dollar threshold for both “gifts”
47 under Sections 9.02 and 9.05 is equal to the dollar threshold under Section 9.14; and
48

49 WHEREAS, establishing a uniform \$50 threshold for both “gifts” under Sections
50 9.02 and 9.05 that is equal to the \$50 threshold under 9.14 (honorariums, fees, and
51 expenses) in the County Ethics Code will help reduce confusion over the acceptance
52 and reporting thresholds; and
53

54 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
55 meeting of March 12, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-173 (vote 4-0); now,
56 therefore,
57

58 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby amends
59 Section 9.02(1) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances by adopting the
60 following:
61

62 **AN ORDINANCE**
63

64 The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Milwaukee does ordain as follows:
65

66 **SECTION 1.** Section 9.02(1) Code of Ethics of the Milwaukee County Code of General
67 Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:
68

69 9.02. – Definitions.
70

71 (1) "Anything of value" means any money or property, favor, service, payment,
72 advance, forbearance, loan, or promise of future employment, business, or other
73 consideration having a value greater than ~~twenty five dollars (\$25.00)~~ fifty dollars
74 (\$50), but does not include compensation and expenses paid by the county, fees
75 and expenses which are permitted and reported under section 9.14 of the Code,
76 political contributions which are reported under ch. 11, Wis. Stats., or hospitality
77 extended for a purpose unrelated to county business by a person other than an
78 organization.

79 **SECTION 2.** The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and
80 publication.
81

82
83 ars
84 03/12/20
85 S:\Committees\2020\Mar\JSGS\Resolutions\20-173 ethics code ordinance.docx