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A resolution by Supervisors Nicholson, Johnson, Jr., Shea, Ortiz-Velez, Taylor, and Cullen, calling upon the United States Congress to repeal the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (1994 Crime Bill), and further calling upon Congress to pass and the President to sign, the People’s Justice Guarantee, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (1994 Crime Bill) was to reduce violent crime following the 1993 Waco Siege, and other high-profile instances of violent crime, by expanding the Federal death penalty, and adding a variety of new crimes defined in statutes relating to immigration law, sex crimes, and gang-related crime; and

WHEREAS, rather than achieving the goal of singularly reducing violent crime, the 1994 Crime Bill has instead utilized billions of dollars to support prison construction, over five years authorizing \$23.1 billion for law enforcement and prison construction, while only \$7.1 billion went to grants combating “violent crimes against women,” drug courts, after-school programs, and employment and business development programs; and

WHEREAS, rather than using resources to invest in substance abuse centers, mental health clinics, youth programs, supportive housing, and basic urban infrastructure revitalization, the funds associated with the 1994 Crime Bill have focused primarily on the building and operating of new prisons, which include incarcerated, undocumented immigrants, and expanded the size and scope of police and corrections departments, putting tremendous pressure on State and local municipalities by adding additional budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, one function of the 1994 Crime Bill was to improve public safety with the implementation of the “three strikes” rule, which imposes mandatory life imprisonment without parole upon committing specified crimes, but due to a lack of proper oversight, has resulted in mass incarceration, which has proven to be overall detrimental to communities by destabilizing an entire generation of Americans and their families, with particularly destructive impact on Black communities; and

WHEREAS, many of the mechanisms included in the 1994 Crime Bill have been proven ineffective, and the United States has 25 percent of the world’s prisoners, and the criminal justice system costs taxpayers \$260 billion a year; and

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WHEREAS, among these many stated flaws, the 1994 Crime Bill additionally:

- Included a 10-year assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004.
- Expanded the Federal death penalty, creating 60 new death penalty offenses.
- Eliminated Pell Grants for people in prison, which had helped incarcerated individuals afford educational classes in prison to learn skills, and ultimately reduce recidivism.
- Permitted 13-year-olds to be tried as adults.

; and

WHEREAS, the May 25, 2020, murder of George Floyd at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers, and the ensuing deployment of militarized police and equipment against overwhelmingly peaceful protestors who are opposed to the status quo, has exemplified the unjust system which has oppressed and exploited Black Americans and other persons of color for centuries; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Federal People’s Justice Guarantee (the Guarantee) (House Resolution 702, 116th Congress, 1st Session), would advance school safety by ending the school-to-prison pipeline by: stopping the shifting focus from punitive measures and suspensions, instead investing in student education and support, such as counseling, after-school programs, restorative justice, and meal programs, in lieu of school policing; and

WHEREAS, the Guarantee would work to end gun violence by regulating manufacturers, limiting firearms production, and supporting community-based violence interruption initiatives, rather than through incarceration and policing, as these programs have shown to effectively lower crime; and

WHEREAS, the 1994 Crime Bill has demonstrated an inability to fulfill its purpose without draconian punishment and imprisonment, increased resources toward the militarization of the police, and the destabilization of communities and families en masse, **as demonstrated by the current strained climate between police departments and the communities they are responsible for serving; and**

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of June 11, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-285 as amended (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

86 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) hereby calls upon the United
87 States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the People's Justice Guarantee
88 (House Resolution 702, 116th Congress, 1st Session) legislation, that would
89 acknowledge the harms and ineffectiveness of mass criminalization and mass
90 incarceration, and begin to repair the damage wrought by the Violent Crime Control and
91 Law Enforcement Act of 1994, and the punitive, expensive, violent, and racist systems
92 of criminalization, by investing in the health and well-being of communities and our
93 nation; and

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95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests the County Clerk provide this
96 resolution to Federal elected officials who represent any part of the County.

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