By Supervisor Clancy File No. 20-528

**A RESOLUTION**

Mandating the use of facemasks or face coverings by all passengers and operators on Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) buses to mitigate the spread and infection rate of COVID-19

WHEREAS, according to data from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of June 29, 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has killed more than 126,000 Americans, double the loss of American life in Vietnam and more than double the average annual U.S. influenza deaths; and

WHEREAS, as of June 29, 2020, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, there have been at least 777 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Wisconsin; and according to the Office of Emergency Management, there have been at least 354 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, the CDC reports older adults and people with certain preexisting medical conditions are at increased risk for complications and severe illness from COVID; while minorities, due to preexisting socioeconomic health disparities, are predisposed and suffering disproportionately from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 transmits from person to person primarily from individuals in close proximity to each other via airborne water droplets and therefore the County Executive ordered a universal face mask policy in Administrative Order 20-14v1 in and on County premises to protect the health and safety of the public and County employees (File No. 20-26); and

WHEREAS, even with capacity limitations, individuals riding Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) buses remain enclosed in relatively close proximity to each other sharing the same air which may carry the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, according to an April 3, 2020 National Public Radio article titled, “’Take This Serious’: Bus Driver Dies of COVID-19 After Calling Out Coughing Rider”, Detroit bus operator Jason Hargrove died of COVID-19 approximately two weeks after he posted a viral video on YouTube criticizing a rider who coughed multiple times without covering her mouth and calling for everyone to be considerate of the health of others; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization and the CDC recommend everyone wear cloth face coverings, particularly indoors in public settings, as it may mitigate the person-to-person spread of airborne water droplets from breathing, coughing, and sneezing, as healthcare workers do in medical clinics and hospitals to protect others by not spreading one’s own germs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, effective August 1, 2020, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby amends the County Executive’s Administrative Order 20-14v1 to require all passengers and operators, excepting persons with medical conditions and children under age six, to wear some form of face covering while on Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) buses to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of those at greater risk of acquiring complications from COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, bus operators shall enforce the policy at the same time and manner as fare collection is made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MCTS shall provide a limited number of disposable, single-use masks to the public for those without access to a mask.