

By Supervisors Nicholson, Taylor, Johnson Jr., Rolland, Shea, Clancy, Martin, and Sumner

A RESOLUTION

Supporting State of Wisconsin legislation which would address policing accountability and transparency

WHEREAS, the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd has brought to the forefront of societal discourse issues of race, poverty, inequality, and problems within the police profession and Milwaukee County has worked toward addressing the societal ill of racial inequality by:

- Creating the Office of African American Affairs in April 2017 (File No. 16-726)
- Declaring racism a public health crisis in April 2019 (File No. 19-397)
- Prioritizing federal Community Development Block Grant dollars toward projects which improve local community and economic development rather than routine public works maintenance in April 2019 (File No.19-153)
- Co-creating the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity in July 2019 (File No. 19-582)
- Creating Chapter 108 – Achieving Racial Equity and Health in the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances in April 2020 (File No. 20-174)
- Calling upon the State of Wisconsin and all Wisconsin counties to make positive policy changes which will work toward eliminating systemic poverty and inequality (File No. 20-576)

; and

WHEREAS, the August 23, 2020 officer-involved shooting of a Black man named Jacob Blake in Kenosha has breathed fresh air into the national conversation; and subsequently on August 24, 2020 Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers issued Executive Order #84 calling the Wisconsin Legislature into a Special Session on policing accountability and transparency scheduled to convene at noon on August 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Governor outlined for the Legislature in the Special Session to consider legislation that will, among other things, address the following:

- 41 • Establish statewide police use of force standards which emphasize the primary
42 duty of law enforcement is to preserve the life of all
43 • Requires police agencies to maintain employee files which must be reviewed by
44 other police agencies or jails prior to hiring to prevent bad officers from moving
45 from department to department
46 • Creates a civil cause of action for unnecessarily summoning law enforcement
47 officers
48 • Protect police whistleblowers
49 • Prohibit the use of chokeholds
50 • Prohibit no-knock search warrants

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54 WHEREAS, the time has come for reasonable reforms to curb abuses and
55 excesses as part of the process to “form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, [and]
56 insure domestic Tranquility”; and

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58 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
59 September 10, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-681 (vote 5-0); now,
60 therefore,

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62 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby calls upon the Wisconsin
63 Legislature to pass and the Wisconsin Governor to sign legislation which will address
64 policing accountability and transparency; and

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66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff is
67 authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to State
68 policymakers and support legislation which achieves the criteria outlined in this
69 resolution.

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