



December 18, 2020

Mark D. O'Connell, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Counties Association  
22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Milwaukee County 2021 Adopted Budget Amendment Relating to WCA Membership

Dear Executive Director O'Connell:

On November 12, 2020, County Executive David Crowley and County Board Chairwoman Marcellia Nicholson signed the 2021 Milwaukee County Budget. The 2021 budget places an appropriation of \$35,835, earmarked for Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) membership dues, in an allocated contingency account. These funds will remain in the contingency account until information is received from the WCA on the following conditions of continued WCA membership by Milwaukee County:

- Adoption of racial equity principles and a collaborative engagement as outlined in Milwaukee County Board File No. 20-576 (attached);
- Modifications to WCA's organizational structure with the intent of creating equity, such as increasing the number of diversity appointments;
- Development of a plan to promote diversity within WCA, such as attraction and retention of diverse staff, and racial equity training opportunities led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color;
- Study options and prepare a report that explores decreasing WCA reserves to pay a dividend or reduce dues to counties;
- Initiation of steps to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest between counties and the WCA;
- Increased transparency for WCA Members on matters relating to the WCA budget, staff salaries, outside non-county government funding, and records;
- Hiring in-house legal counsel and/or establishment of internal processes for the retention of outside counsel and;
- Competitive bidding processes for legal, insurance, financial, and other services.

Upon receipt and review of this information, the Milwaukee County Board will consider the transfer of these funds from the allocated contingency account to the WCA for membership. The full text of language adopted by the Board in Budget Amendment 1A001 is attached and will be included in the 2021 Adopted Operating Budget upon publication next month.

We look forward to your timely response so that the Milwaukee County Board may consider it at its February 4, 2021 Board meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Czarnecki  
Milwaukee County Board  
Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair



George L. Christenson  
Milwaukee County Clerk

CC: WCA Board of Directors  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley