File No. 21-196

From the Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, Department of Administrative Services, requesting authorization to apply for, receive, and allocate $10,629,017 million of federal Emergency Rental Assistance funding and authorization to allocate $901,635 of Miller Park testing site revenues to COVID-19 response activities, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021” which was signed into federal law on December 27, 2020 included a $900 billion for various COVID-19 relief programs hereinafter referred to as “COVID-19 Relief Bill”; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Relief Bill provides $25 billion of “Emergency Rental Assistance” funding nationwide; and

WHEREAS, local governments with populations of over 200,000 are eligible to receive direct Emergency Rental Assistance funding under the COVID-19 Relief Bill, and

WHEREAS, in order to receive Emergency Rental Assistance funding under the COVID-19 Relief Bill, local governments with populations of over 200,000 were required to apply to the United States Treasury Department by January 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Administrative Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, applied for Emergency Rental Assistance funding under the COVID-19 Relief Bill; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2021 the Treasury Department notified the Department of Administrative Services that Milwaukee County would receive an Emergency Rental Assistance allocation of $10,629,017; and

WHEREAS, federal guidance states that the Emergency Rental Assistance funding may be used for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and other expenses related to housing incurred due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, File 20-937 authorized the use of Debt Service Reserve funding in 2021 to provide financing to maintain services at the Miller Park testing site; and

WHEREAS, File 20-937 approved $2.5 million (or the final excess revenue earned (at the testing site) in 2020) to maintain services at the Miller Park testing site; and

WHEREAS, final excess revenue earned at the Miller Park testing site was $901,635; and

WHEREAS, final excess revenues earned at the Miller Park testing site were less than the $2.5 million amount previously projected because the City of Milwaukee took on fiscal agent responsibilities in December 2020, including claiming and reimbursement for tests conducted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee is now paying for most of the costs associated with administering the Miller Park testing site; and

WHEREAS, the County funding contribution to maintain services at the Miller Park testing site in 2021 is no longer expected to be fully needed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to retroactively apply for and accept Emergency Rental Assistance funding under the COVID-19 Relief Bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DAS and the Comptroller are authorized and directed to provide an administrative appropriation transfer to recognize $10,629,017 of Emergency Rental Assistance Funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes the use of Emergency Rental Assistance Funding for eligible activities under the COVID-19 Relief Bill including rental assistance, rent arrears, utilities, home energy costs, and other eligible expenses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services, DAS, Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, Community Business Development Partners, Comptroller, and County Executive to prepare, review, approve, and execute all contracts and other documents, and take all actions required for the purpose of administering the above-referenced Emergency Rental Assistance program funded by the $10,629,017 COVID-19 Relief Bill allocation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes $901,635 in Miller Park testing site revenues to be used for COVID-19 response activities, including but not limited to costs associated with the Miller Park testing site; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DAS and the Comptroller are authorized and directed to provide an administrative appropriation transfer to allocate $901,635 from the Debt Service Reserve to Org. Unit 9960 – General County Debt Service to pay 2021 debt service expenses, and to allocate property tax levy of $901,635 from Org. Unit 9960 to finance COVID-19 response activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the above-referenced $901,635 allocation replaces the allocation of $2.5 million (or the final excess revenue earned in 2020), as approved within File 20-937; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services shall provide monthly reports to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors detailing expenses charged to the COVID-19 grant funds as well as updates on the programs funded with these monies.