By Supervisor Martin File No. 21-406

**A RESOLUTION**

denouncing political violence, rioting, looting, arson, armed insurrection, domestic terrorism, and white supremacy

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is working on a roadmap to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County officially declared racism a public health crisis (File No. 19-397), and amended the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to include Chapter 108: Achieving Racial Equity and Health (File No. 20-174); and

WHEREAS, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) and the Bridging Divides Initiatives (BDI) at Princeton University collaborated to perform the duty of United States (U.S.) Crisis Monitor; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Crisis Monitor tracks political violence, identifies risks and potential threats data, which can be used to improve decision-making, enhance peace building efforts, and mitigate further violence; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Crisis Monitor confirms that there were 725 Black Lives Matter protests in the United States between May 24, 2020 and August 22, 2020, and while most of those protests were peaceful, some were met with violence that included tear gas, rubber bullets and beating of protesters with batons; and

WHEREAS, while violence was forced upon protestors there were also over 100 instances of government violence directed towards the media during this same time period as reported by the *Huffington Post*; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Crisis Monitor, in Wisconsin there were 375 protests as of May 2020; and

WHEREAS, of these protests 342 of them were reported as peaceful and 33 protests were reported as using excessive force, and/or violence by/or associated with the demonstrators; and

WHEREAS, the most notable protest in Wisconsin occurred following the shooting of Jacob Blake on August 23, 2020 in the City of Kenosha by Kenosha Police Officers, in which protesters took to the streets of Kenosha to voice their frustration over another life forever changed at the hands of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on the third day of protesting for Jacob Blake, protesters clashed with a vigilante group and three people were shot resulting in the death of two; and

WHEREAS, months prior to the shooting of Jacob Blake in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, an unarmed black man suspected of forgery, died at the hands of law enforcement, after the arresting officer kneeled on George Floyd’s neck for eight minutes; and

WHEREAS, the killing of George Floyd sparked protests nationwide, of which protesters looted businesses in Minnesota including a police department precinct, and in New York protesters clashed with police officers, resulting in more than 40 people arrested and hundreds more were treated for injuries; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, protesters took to the streets of Wauwatosa to express their frustration with the District Attorney’s decision to not charge Wauwatosa Police Officer Joseph Mensah in the fatal shooting of Alvin Cole in February 2020; and

WHEREAS, although the protests in Wauwatosa were peaceful, the Mayor of Wauwatosa set a 7:00 p.m. curfew in the City, restricting protesters from assembling peacefully, and shortly thereafter at 8 p.m., approximately 19 protesters were arrested and issued citations for violating curfew and an emergency order, including Alvin Cole’s mother and State Assembly Representative David Bowen of Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2021, protesters stormed the United States Capitol in an attempt to disrupt the certification of the Electoral College votes, and five people were killed including one U.S. Capitol Police Officer and more than 138 police officers were injured; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 21-193, which, in part, condemned the insurrection at the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Assembly adopted 2021 Assembly Resolution Four, condemning political violence and supporting people’s right to assemble peacefully; and

WHEREAS, the violent events that took place in Kenosha, Minneapolis, the United States Capitol and other places that claimed the lives of several people and hurt others, is unpatriotic and uncivil and violates the personal values of each member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors discourages city leaders in Wauwatosa, Kenosha, Minneapolis, and other municipalities from preventing peaceful protesting by declaring an unlawful assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby denounces any form of political violence, acts of rioting, looting, arson, armed insurrection, acts of domestic terrorism, white supremacy, and supports and encourages peacefully assembly and the right to free speech for all.