File No.

Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting retroactive authorization to execute a contract with the State of Wisconsin for $12,666,258 in federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funding and to apply for and accept an additional $8,410,244 in direct ERA 2 federal funding, 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, File 21-196, approved by the County Board in February 2021, authorized the allocation of $10.6 million in federal ERA funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to Milwaukee County and after launching the program on March 1 with its partner providers, the Housing Division is expecting that the majority of funds will be expended by June 1 with the program having served 1,749 households to date; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Department of Administration desires to expend a portion of its allocation received under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 for the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance for the purpose of providing rental and utility assistance to certain low-income residents of the State of Wisconsin affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; 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, the State has approved a sub-award to DHHS in the amount of $12,666,258 for eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, State DOA has indicated that it is likely to award additional funding to DHHS out of its Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 earmark to be used for the same purpose and this funding must be expended on a timely basis as funds are available through September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Milwaukee County DHHS was just recently notified of the availability of $8,410,244 in direct Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) 2 funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and submitted an application for such funding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to retroactively accept Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the State of Wisconsin and U.S. Department of the Treasury; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Comptroller are authorized and directed to process an administrative appropriation transfer to recognize $12,666,258 of Emergency Rental Assistance from the State of Wisconsin and $8,410,244 in ERA 2 funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury; 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 retroactively authorizes DHHS, 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 $12,666,258 COVID-19 Relief Bill allocation, ERA 2 funds of $8,410,244 and any future allocations DHHS may receive for this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes DHHS to accept any additional allocations from the State of Wisconsin as well as direct federal allocations it receives for this limited-term program following the procedures outlined in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DHHS shall provide monthly informational reports to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors detailing expenses charged and participants served, and any supplemental appropriations that have been allocated to the county under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.