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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5
6 designating May as annual Violence Prevention Month in Milwaukee County, increasing
7 awareness about violence prevention, and urging residents of Milwaukee County, non-
8 profit organizations, and faith-based organizations to promote efforts to decrease
9 violence within communities
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12 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) defines violence as
13 intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another
14 person, or against a community group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of
15 resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declares that
18 violence is a serious health problem that affects people of all stages of life from infants
19 to the elderly; and
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21 WHEREAS, the CDC states that survivors of violence often suffer long term
22 physical, mental and emotional health, and economic problems; and
23

24 WHEREAS, neighborhoods with high crime rates, easy access to drugs and
25 alcohol, unstable housing, lack of community enrichment, and other negative
26 environmental factors influence a person's decision to engage in violence; and
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28 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Office of Violence
29 Prevention states that "violence discourages economic development in troubled areas,
30 thereby affecting the accessibility of jobs, healthy food, and safe housing"; and
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32 WHEREAS, according to the National Violence Death Reporting System
33 (NVDRS), in 2017 the State of Wisconsin reported 1,187 deaths resulting from violence
34 and of that total, firearms were involved in 624 of those deaths; and
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36 WHEREAS, preliminary reports from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's
37 Office indicate that there were more than 200 homicides reported in Milwaukee County
38 in 2020, which is the highest total on record since 1991; and
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40 WHEREAS, A case study conducted by the Center for American Progress titled,
41 *The Economic Benefits of Reducing Violent Crimes in 2012*, stated that if Milwaukee

42 reduced violent crime by 25 percent, the City government would save 12.3 million
43 dollars, which could benefit community development efforts in the City; and
44

45 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Office of Violence
46 Prevention works diligently to prevent violence before it starts and increase awareness
47 through collaborative efforts with community stakeholders and various agencies; and
48

49 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 20-287, the Wisconsin
50 Caregiver Law for barrable offenses to allow individuals to demonstrate that they have
51 been rehabilitated and serve as credible messengers to youth in the community; and
52

53 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 20-742 to contract with
54 agencies that provide transformative mentoring intervention for youth involved with the
55 justice system by pairing them with a credible messenger from their community that has
56 also been involved with the justice system; and
57

58 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee 414Life established the Milwaukee Blueprint
59 for Peace that focuses on community engagement, addressing equity and dismantling
60 institutional racism, and building community resilience; and
61

62 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County can work towards violence prevention and
63 increasing violence awareness throughout the County by partnering with community
64 organizations, including the City of Milwaukee 414life, Youth Advocates Program, West
65 Care and Milwaukee Christian Center and credible messengers to disrupt violence and
66 strengthen communities; and
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68 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs and Strategic
69 Planning, at its meeting of May 12, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-383
70 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,
71

72 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby declares
73 May as annual Violence Prevention Month in Milwaukee County and urges residents,
74 community members, non-profit and religious affiliations to increase awareness efforts
75 about violence prevention, promote efforts to decrease violence, and encourage non-
76 violence within communities.
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