By Supervisors Taylor, Shea, and Martin File No. 21-492

**A RESOLUTION**

requesting the Office of Corporation Counsel, the Procurement Division, Department of Administrative Services, and the Office of the Comptroller review the recommendations made by the Audit Services Division to update Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances relating to professional services and requesting the submission of proposed recommended changes that can be made to align with current statutory guidelines for contracts

WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Audit Services Division of the Milwaukee County Office of the Comptroller opened an investigation concerning former Milwaukee County Register of Deeds John La Fave based upon receipt of a tip to the Audit Services Division’s Fraud Hotline; and

WHEREAS, due to the potential criminal behavior, the Audit Services Division referred the initial investigation materials to law enforcement in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2020, the Audit Services Division was notified that the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin filed a charge against former Milwaukee County Register of Deeds John La Fave; and

WHEREAS, the Audit Services Division initiated an audit of the Register of Deeds in response to a request by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (File No. 19-486); and

WHEREAS, the Audit Services Division concluded an audit and issued its audit report in February 2021 titled “Former ROD’s Willful Disregard for County Policies and Procedures and Cooperative Vendors Facilitated Development of a “Pot of Gold” for Improper Use of County Funds” (File No. 21-297); and

WHEREAS, in April 2021, Milwaukee County concurred with and adopted the recommendations provided within the report, including a recommendation for the Office of the Comptroller, Office of Corporation Counsel, and Department of Administrative Services to update Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO) to reflect current statutory guidelines for contract approvals and developing additional language that will include revenue contracts in those statutory guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in a response to the audit report, the Office of the Comptroller indicated that they were working with the Office of Corporation Counsel and Department of Administrative Services to develop an Administrative Manual of Operating Procedures (AMOP) for contracts, which will reflect statutory guidelines, and will provide clarity on how to best update the MCGO to reflect Wisconsin State Statutes and the County’s AMOP; and

WHEREAS, providing clear and consistent operating procedures for County departments is necessary to ensure appropriate procurement of professional services; and

WHEREAS, updating the MCGO to adhere to Wisconsin State Statutes is in the best interest of Milwaukee County to avoid any future wrongdoings or financial misdeeds, especially those that involve tax dollars; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Office of the Comptroller, Office of Corporation Counsel, and Procurement Division, Department of Administrative Services are hereby requested to review the recommendations made by the Audit Services Division in File No. 21-297 to update Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances related to professional services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the identified entities are hereby requested to develop and submit for approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors a proposed revision to Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to align with Wisconsin State Statutes related to contracts and the proposed language shall incorporate revenue contracts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a report shall be submitted to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for the September 2021 committee cycle with the proposed revisions or a status update on progress towards developing the revisions.