

MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson - District 10

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A Stand for Justice and Belonging

Milwaukee County Board Passes Resolution to Protect Access, Justice, and Community Safety

MILWAUKEE – County Board Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, Supervisor Caroline Gómez-Tom, and Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez issued the following statements today after the Milwaukee County Board passed a <u>resolution</u> they authored reaffirming the County's commitment to justice, safety, and equitable access at the Milwaukee County Courthouse Complex. The resolution follows public concern over recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests at the Courthouse and was adopted with a vote of 17 ayes and one abstention.

"Our Courthouse should be a symbol of fairness, not fear," stated **Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson**. "This resolution is about upholding the integrity of our justice system and ensuring everyone has equal access to it. When we equip people with education, like through 'Know Your Rights' materials, we're doing more than just providing information, we're building trust and empowerment. That's how we build a justice system worthy of the name."

"Community members feeling safe to utilize the Courthouse as intended is our top priority — whether that's attending a hearing, seeking resources, or supporting a loved one," said **Supervisor Caroline Gómez-Tom**. "This resolution reinforces our shared values of due process, dignity, and the idea that everyone deserves their day in court without fear or intimidation."

"What happened recently shook our community," added **Supervisor Juan Miguel Martinez**. "We can't stand by when people's rights are threatened in places meant to serve them. This resolution sends a clear message that Milwaukee County stands for justice, fairness, and safety for all. We're committed to rebuilding that trust and sense of belonging."

The resolution calls on the Office of the County Executive, the Chief Judge of the First Judicial District, and the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office to collaborate in safeguarding the constitutional rights of all who enter the Courthouse Complex. It also commits Milwaukee County to public education efforts around individual rights and appropriate actions when interacting with immigration enforcement.

The resolution will now head to the desk of Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley for his review.