



Milwaukee County

County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, Rm.
105
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Certified Copy

Resolution: 16-110

File Number: 16-110

A resolution urging the County Executive to explore all available options to improve the conditions at Lincoln Hills for Milwaukee County youth, authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to consider alternative secure detention options, and supporting State legislation examining alternative juvenile justice models.

I, Joseph J. Czarnezki, County Clerk in and for the County of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of Resolution No. 16-110, ADOPTED by the County Board on 2/4/16 and SIGNED by the County Executive on 2/8/16.

Given under my hand and official seal, at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, in the City of Milwaukee.

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Joseph J. Czarnezki in black ink.

Joseph J. Czarnezki

February 10, 2016

Date Certified

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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Lipscomb, Sr., Moore Omokunde, Dimitrijevic, Mayo, Sr., and Romo West, urging the County Executive to explore all available options to improve the conditions at Lincoln Hills for Milwaukee County youth, authorizing the Department of Health and Human Services to consider alternative secure detention options, and supporting State legislation examining alternative juvenile justice models, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI), Lincoln Hills School For Boys (Lincoln Hills) was raided by law enforcement on December 5, 2015, in response to allegations of physical abuse of a child, second-degree sexual assault, and victim and witness intimidation; and

WHEREAS, located in North Central Wisconsin, Lincoln Hills' juvenile inmate population is comprised of over 50 percent of youths that are from Milwaukee County (the County); and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2015, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) passed legislation requesting that judges refrain from placing juveniles at Lincoln Hills and urging the Governor of Wisconsin and the County Executive to find alternative secure placements near Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on January 11, 2016, that 16 State employees were placed on paid leave due to the ongoing investigation at Lincoln Hills and the Department of Corrections refuses to provide details on how much these paid leaves are costing taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, one of the many repercussions of the debacle at Lincoln Hills is the increased costs due to the investigation, e.g., paid leave of staff, overtime caused by the loss of 5.6 percent of its staff, and legal costs; and

WHEREAS, the investigation of Lincoln Hills supports what numerous studies have shown that juvenile delinquency services are more successful and cost efficient when they are provided locally in small, community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, the County has advocated for years to improve outcomes for youth and to lower the overall cost to taxpayers by providing community-based, locally-operated, outcome-driven programming; and

43 WHEREAS, the County has developed a number of alternatives to placement at
44 Lincoln Hills, including the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP),
45 launched in 2012; and

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47 WHEREAS, MCAP has a secure detention component that can last up to 180
48 days and is designed to allow qualified youth to stay closer to home as an alternative to
49 Lincoln Hills; and

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51 WHEREAS, under current law, State judges order the placement of juveniles in
52 the State-run JCI's and counties are charged daily rates, set by the State for the care of
53 the adjudicated juveniles; and

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55 WHEREAS, other than MCAP, which can only take up to 24 juveniles, the
56 County has no other alternatives for judges that may wish to place juveniles in secure
57 detention close to home; and

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59 WHEREAS, the situation at Lincoln Hills makes it imperative that the County
60 consider all alternatives for secure detention; and

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62 WHEREAS, La Crosse County has developed a program called Community
63 Option for Re-Engagement (CORE) Academy, which allows a maximum secure
64 detention option for up to 365 days per Wisconsin Statute 938.34(3)(f); and

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66 WHEREAS, the State Legislature has pending legislation, (2015 Assembly Bill
67 746), that advocates the creation of a committee to study a successful model for
68 juvenile corrections in Missouri and directs the committee to develop a plan for
69 implementation here in Wisconsin; and

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71 WHEREAS, the model in Missouri confirms that utilizing smaller facilities closer
72 to home is a more effective and efficient model for juveniles who are in need of
73 restrictive custodial treatment; and

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75 WHEREAS, the extent of the investigation at Lincoln Hills is evidence of a larger
76 institutional problem making it imperative for the County to ensure the safety of
77 Milwaukee County youth by providing a local, evidence-based alternative while making
78 real progress in the area of juvenile justice; and

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80 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
81 January 27, 2016, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 6-0); now, therefore,

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83 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
84 urges the County Executive to seek immediate remedies to improve the situation for
85 Milwaukee County (the County) youth currently placed at Lincoln Hills School For Boys
86 (Lincoln Hills), the State Juvenile Justice Facility; and

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88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Health and Human Services
89 (DHHS) is authorized to analyze alternatives for the placement of juveniles in secure
90 detention, i.e., Lincoln Hills, including a review of the La Crosse Community Option for
91 Re-Engagement (CORE) Academy, and possible alternative locations for secure
92 detention, such as the House of Correction, that are also consistent with Federal and
93 State law; and

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95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, due to the urgency of this matter, DHHS shall
96 present all secure detention alternatives to the County Board for consideration in the
97 next cycle; and

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99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any additional costs incurred as a result of this
100 investigation of Lincoln Hills should be assumed by the State and not by the counties;
101 and

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103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County requests the State of Wisconsin to
104 approve the use of Youth Aids for an alternative secure detention to Lincoln Hills, which
105 will be developed by the County and must be approved by the Department of
106 Corrections; and

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108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County supports the legislation (2015
109 Assembly Bill 746), creating a Juvenile Rehabilitation Study Committee to review the
110 Missouri Model of juvenile rehabilitation and to prepare a plan for development and
111 implementation in Wisconsin; and

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113 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County supports the Federal and State
114 investigations of civil rights violations involving Milwaukee County youth placed at
115 Lincoln Hills; and

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117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon adoption, the County Clerk shall forward a
118 copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the County Delegation
119 in the State Legislature, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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