

Milwaukee County Board: Introduces resolution to prohibit use of chokeholds

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MILWAUKEE – 13 Milwaukee County Supervisors have introduced a [resolution](#) calling upon the county’s Civil Service Commission to prohibit the use of chokeholds and asphyxia by all Milwaukee County employees, including Sheriff’s Deputies and Correction Officers.

If adopted, the Director of Human Resources would be requested to propose amendments to the Milwaukee County Civil Service Commission that would change the county’s Civil Service Rules, banning chokeholds or any form of asphyxia unless done as a last resort in self-defense or to protect the lives of others. The Civil Service Commission would then have to pass this measure for it to take effect.

*“Given what’s happened to George Floyd and so many others across the country we must put it on record that Milwaukee County employees are expected to deescalate a situation whenever possible,” said **Supervisor Johnson, Jr.***

*“The Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Department doesn’t train our deputies to use the chokehold procedure,” said **Supervisor Martin.** “We would like to see our deputies utilize the other tools in their toolkits. It appears departments across the country have fallen into the habit of using deadly force as their go-to response versus using the de-escalating tools available. Any law enforcement agency utilizing or condoning the use of chokeholds advisedly or not is indeed living in the dark ages. I would recommend such departments be dismantled full stop!”*

*“From George Floyd to Eric Garner and all the way back to Ernest Lacy in 1981, it has been shown time and time again that the use of chokeholds and any restraint that restricts a person’s breathing should not be used by law enforcement or in correctional facilities,” said **Supervisor Staskunas**.*

While the Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office does not train deputies to use chokeholds, and Sheriff Lucas has said that any law enforcement agency that does is in the “dark ages,” this resolution is a step towards formally banning the practice in Milwaukee County.

The resolution also declares that all Milwaukee County employees must first attempt to deescalate a confrontation whenever possible before resorting to the use of physical force.

Supervisors Willie Johnson, Jr., Felesia A. Martin, Anthony Staskunas, Ryan Clancy, Shawn Rolland, Steven Shea, Joseph Czarnezki, Jason Haas, Sequanna Taylor, Eddie Cullen, Patti Logsdon, Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr. and Sheldon A. Wasserman sponsored the resolution.

The resolution is scheduled to be heard in front of the County Board’s Audit Committee on Wednesday, September 16 at 1 p.m.