



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2021

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**Rep. Brostoff Celebrates Passage of Milwaukee County Resolution in Support of
Ending Qualified Immunity for Police**

MILWAUKEE – In celebration of the passage yesterday of Milwaukee County Board Resolution 21-462, which affirms Milwaukee County’s support for ending qualified immunity for law enforcement, State Representative Jonathan Brostoff (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement:

“Yesterday’s vote by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is a win for Milwaukee County, for Wisconsin, and for the concepts of good policing and accountability in law enforcement. Over the last 50 years, qualified immunity has morphed from a good-faith protection for law enforcement into a vague, near-catchall defense that has been repeatedly used by police officers across the country to violate the rights of the people they are supposed to protect with no consequences, and it must be ended. The evidence bears this out: across the country in red, blue, and purple areas alike, ending qualified immunity has had noticeable and immediate effects on lowering rates of police violence and protecting the rights of individuals. As Supervisor Clancy pointed out during yesterday’s debate, leaked memos from New York City even showed that it was the city’s decision to end qualified immunity, not long-standing policy or good practice, that made law enforcement associations in New York City encourage their members to actually follow the law when interacting with individuals!”

First introduced by Milwaukee County Supervisors Ryan Clancy, Felesia Martin, Shawn Rolland, Steven Shea, Willie Johnson, Jr., and Sequanna Taylor, Resolution 21-462 passed the full County Board on a vote of 16-2 yesterday afternoon, after having been referred to the full Board by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee earlier this month. The contents of the resolution will now be communicated to the Wisconsin Counties Association and state and federal policymakers in Wisconsin, and Milwaukee County will take a formal stance in support of ending qualified immunity for police.

“I want to thank Supervisors Clancy, Martin, Rolland, Shea, Johnson, Jr., and Taylor for introducing this resolution, and I want to thank the assembled County Board for adding Milwaukee County to the list of organizations, academics, lawmakers, and former law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum who have joined the chorus of voices recognizing the need to end qualified immunity across this country. As we have seen time and time again, qualified immunity does nothing more than protect corrupt cops from accountability, lowers trust levels with the community, and tarnishes the very profession of law enforcement. It is my mission to end this policy in Wisconsin, and I am so proud and grateful to have the support of the Milwaukee County Board in that fight. Now, let’s get this done.”

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