MINUTES OF MEETING OF JUDICIARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
on June 1st, 2022
KCAB 2ND FLOOR COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

Members Present: Zach Rodriguez, Brian Bashaw, Laura Belsky, Erin Decker, Mark Nordigian, John Franco, Jeff Wambold

Others Present: Chief Deputy Marc Levin, Cpt. Tony Gonzalez, Clara Tappa, Jennifer Franco, George Arf, Dirk Ingrim, Steven Schwimmer, Lori Hawkins, Sister Erica Jordan, Sharon Acri, Jodi Muirhoff, Veronica King, Ellen Ferwerda, Amanda Becker, Kevin Bees, Carol McEnteiart, YIG Alexa Didinsky, YIG Ben Rothove

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Rodriguez

Citizen Comments:

6:31: Chairman Rodriguez used the sign in sheet to call names for citizens who wished to speak. Each citizen was allotted 3 minutes speaking time. Chairman Rodriguez requested all applause and comments were held until the end.

Jennifer Franco of 10732 64th Street, Kenosha:
Jennifer commented that in the last two weeks we have once again experienced the trauma of multiple mass shootings in this country. We then learn two of the first resolutions coming from the new County Board include allowing more guns in Counting Buildings and creating a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary State. Jennifer felt they were inappropriate and will not make us safer. Guns carried in public pose a danger to public safety, and lax conceal carry laws increase the risk of violent confrontations. Advocates of Concealed Carry Licensing (CCL) laws allow more guns in public squares, and cite a desire for improved public safety, there is no evidence suggesting that expanding public carry reduces violence. The carrying of concealed weapons in public places can quickly escalate everyday conflicts into deadly altercations causing tragic irreversible damage to innocent lives. Academic literature shows that when more people carry guns in public, violent crime increases. The most comprehensive study of concealed carry laws found that in counties and States with weak permitting laws, had violent crime rates between 13-15% higher than predicted, had such laws not been in place. In addition, there is no research that suggests expanding public carry has any public safety benefits. Firearms are rarely used successfully in self-defense. Individuals successfully defend themselves with a gun in less than 1% of crimes. In rare instances in which firearms are used in self-defense, research shows using a firearm did not reduce a person’s chance of being injured and carrying a firearm may actually increase the victim’s risk of injury during the commission of a crime. “Ensure public safety” was the phrase used by most of our new Kenosha County supervisors. Jennifer addressed the committee stating it was their chance to accomplish one of their first goals by keeping the current ban on guns in county buildings.

George Arf of 7801 88th Ave., Pleasant Prairie:
George addressed the “Resolution to Amend the 2011 Resolution 63 – (#64) A Resolution to Ban Firearms, Explosives, and Other Weapons in Kenosha County Buildings.”, and stated that it is incredibly confusing. George commented that Act 35 allows CCL firearms, but then further on down the resolution reads like the weapons prohibition is to be done away with. George commented that CCL means pistol and does not mean an AR-15 or a Barrett 50-Caliber, which you cannot conceal carry. The concept of liability isn’t an issue here, as you are not immune from liability as soon as you get out of the conceal carry group and when you get into the open carry group liability remains. George stated that Wisconsin Act 35 isn’t going to fix it. George referred to a section about the banning of possession, which forces a law abiding individual to remove their weapon off their person in a County Building and because Kenosha asked not to store firearms in the vehicles due to car theft, it’s somehow combined. George stated it is not and a person can bring a gun and store it properly, in a safe, in your car and then that eliminates the problem. George quoted from the resolution, “Therefore it is resolved and declared the possession of some concealed or openly displayed weapons is a danger to the public and should be regulated.” and asked about what the purpose was, to regulate or not regulate. George also asked
the committee if the purpose was to allow guns in the building, but in their own wording it says it should be regulated.

Dirk Ingrim of 2021 1st Street, Kenosha:
Dirk stated that we all have something in common here and all are concerned about public safety. It’s the chosen path to that safety, in which we differ. Dirk stated that if guns in more places was the solution, then the United States would be the safest place on Earth. Dirk stated he was not going to rattle off statistics, but instead to be practical and pragmatic about this. Dirk asked the committee to give a real-life example in a county building, where there was a situation, and good woman or man with a gun could’ve alleviated a tragedy. Dirk stated he spoke with Supervisor Rodriguez on the phone the day before and had asked him that question, to which Chairman Rodriguez asked Dirk if there’s ever been a fire in a county building. Despite the fact that neither of them could recall a fire in a county building, a county building has fire extinguishers. Dirk commented that he found this a flimsy analogy, because at his house under the kitchen sink, there is a fire extinguisher, and if one of his friends 5-year old’s got a hold of the foam from a fire extinguisher, he hoped Chairman Rodriguez was not equating that to a round. Dirk stated that if public safety is the concern, then they'll continue with this situation. Dirk addressed that committee asking if some of them when they come into work, knowing that some of them carry all the time like Chairman Rodriguez, if they were having tremors away from their guns or are triggered. Dirk's time was completed prior to finishing his statements.

Steven Schwimmer of 6300 44th Street 53144:
Steven stated that he was the past chair for the Kenosha County Board of Health, the advisor to the Division of Health in the past, the primary Out-Care Reach via the Health Department, and several other things. Steven commented that his point was he could speak as somebody who has spent a fair amount of time in county owned buildings. Steven added that he had a private practice on Sheridan Road, which was Paul Ryan’s Kenosha outreach office at the time, and that building has all sorts of signage about having no guns on the premises. Steven commented that we have a situation where a bill was passed 11 years ago, with one nay and the rest positive. Steven looked to see about any evidence concerning open carry or concealed carry as a benefit, and I could not find any of a reasonable or knowledgeable literature. He did not know of any example, none were cited, of an incident where the lack of open or concealed carry caused a problem. The literature has some weaknesses and claims made by pro-gun organizations and groups and just do not hold water. Steven commented that there were exceptions for the courthouse, but then asked where else and if that included the Administration Building and why it includes exceptions for some county buildings but not for others. Steven commented that having worked in various county buildings, this will not increase the security, or feeling of security, of the people who work there.

Lori Hawkins of 18153 102nd St., Bristol:
Lori stated that there is no substantial research that greater legal access to guns leads to less violence. Nor that carrying in public spaces by the general public keeps people safer. Consider Milwaukee for example, between 2011 and 2020 the number of CCL’s issued by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, rose and fell with the number of homicides. In years where concealed carry licenses increased, so did the homicides. The opposite is also true, when CCL’s decreased in numbers, so did the number of homicides. One of our most recent mass shootings involved 19 children, 2 teachers, and an armed guard at the door. They were shot to death with a legally purchased weapon, a legal carried gun. While no one is proposing firearms be allowed in our schools, the elements are similar here. A public building with innocent people inside attacked by a bad-guy with a gun, could not be kept safer by a good-guy with a gun. Adding more guns to the equation isn’t a solution, it is elevating a problem. The excuse of increased liability that this resolution mentions, is a smokescreen. A case of creating a means to an end when it comes to rolling back the 2011 Resolution 63, that keeps us safer by keeping guns carried by the public out of our public buildings. Your resolution to amend the 2011 resolution 63, does not create a problem, but rather creates the illusion of a solution to a problem that doesn’t not exist. This committee’s proposed solution serves to add to the problem. More guns lead to more violence and more victims of gun violence.
Sister Erica Jordan of the Dominican Sister of Sinsinawa, 415 44th St., Kenosha:
Sister Jordan commented that she had emailed each of the committee members last night and was not going to repeat her reasons for saying that this is a dangerous and not helpful change to the law. Sister Jordan wanted to correct a statistic given the previous night to “for every 100 people in the US there are 240 firearms”. Sister Jordan added that it is not an exact quotation, but it is from Amnesty International, which has accused our country of Human Rights violations because we do not adequately protect our own people. Sister Jordan added that she begged the committee to not approve this resolution, for the sake and the safety of all of us.

Sharon Acerbi of 1286 40th Ave.:
Sharon commented that her friends and herself were there to oppose an amendment to change the ban of the firearms in Kenosha County buildings. She said she trusted Chief Deputy Levin and other members of the Kenosha Sheriff’s Department to keep us safe) and suggests the Committee does too.

Jodi Muerhoff of 7220 1st Ave.:
Jodi commented that she sent an email to the Committee members last night and was not going to repeat what was said in her email. Jodi had sent numerous studies that more guns do not make us safe and confirms what was said earlier by Jennifer Franco. Jodi added that she was appealing to the Committee from a public health standpoint and gun violence is a public health issue. On the way to the meeting, Jodi listened to the radio where she heard there was another mass shooting in Tulsa, OK. It was currently unknown how many victims there were, but more guns do not make us safe and having guns in our buildings do not make us safer. Jodi commented that this resolution is coming from an insurance liability standpoint, but she cannot imagine the liability we will face if there is an accidental discharge of a gun in one the county buildings. Jodi gave the example of somebody gets mad at a coworker and kills them. Jodi felt that it was a smoke screen for an agenda that was put in place. Jodi expressed that she is very disappointed that one of the very first acts as a County Board, is considering these kinds of resolutions when we have homelessness, food insecurity, housing issues, and they would choose guns as their first priority. Jodi felt it was disappointing to her as a citizen of Kenosha County.

Veronica King of 5518 34th Ave., Kenosha:
Veronica has been studying criminal justice at the bachelor, masters and PhD levels since she graduated high school. Veronica said nowhere had she read or learned that bullets have names on them and to allow people to conceal carry in public buildings, is opening up a can of worms. Veronica used the example of a citizen going to Pick-N-Save or Piggly Wiggly to use their food share card, and finds out there’s nothing on there, they then drive out to the Job Center upset because their food share dollars have been cut, and they take out that frustration on our county employees. Veronica reiterated that they are opening up that can of worms because the signs in the parking lot come down and you can possess a weapon in the area. Veronica commented to take into consideration all the signs that say you cannot possess a weapon in a building, they will have to come down if the resolution passes. That tells citizens they can go in the Job Center or Public Safety Building and take out their frustration on whomever is behind the glass. Veronica asked the Committee not to not pass the resolution and think about the safety of the employees and innocent citizens because as she said, bullets do not have names on them.

Ellen Ferwerda of 7824 5th Ave., Kenosha:
Ellen said a lot of people spoke and she was grateful for the people who showed up. Ellen agreed with Veronica King and thought it would really be worthwhile to talk to employees who work at these county buildings and ask their opinions on how they feel about having interactions with people who are carrying, or possibly carrying, guns. Ellen thought it really changes the climate and atmosphere of a workplace, and for that reason most workplaces do not allow guns. Ellen added she thought it was interesting they acknowledge the importance of keeping deadly weapons outside of these buildings, but did not including a gun, which is the most accessible, accurate, and likely to kill weapon. Ellen commented that she did not know what the other weapons are that they are going to keep out and asked if they were knives or explosives. Ellen added that it was a big can of worms that the City of Kenosha doesn’t have a ban, because they were advised by their insurance company that they would be liable if they had a ban. Ellen commented that Zach Stock, at the last meeting she went to for Public Works, said it was a moot point and it wouldn’t affect them financially whether
or not they had a ban. Ellen hoped these things would be brought up with the City of Kenosha because it didn’t make sense that they base their opinion on their insurance representative’s advice. Zach Stock also said he put out a call all other 72 municipalities in Wisconsin, to see how they were dealing with this issue. Ellen said that Zach heard from 7 or 8 of them but he never told us what those municipalities said. Ellen added that you can look up ordinances, and she had looked up Green Bay, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Madison. They all ban firearms in their buildings.

Amanda Becker of 1807 81st St., Kenosha:
Amanda commented that she was there to speak out against the Resolution to Amend 2011 Resolution #63. Amanda added that she was disappointed that this is one of the first pieces of legislation coming out of the new County Board. Amanda said that as she was sitting there, she received a CNN Alert that another mass shooting had happened, the one that Jodi Muerhoff had mentioned in Tulsa, OK. At that point three people were killed, and it was unknown how many more. In preparation for the meeting, Amanda had read through the resolution, reviewed it, and came away with the following reasons the board was looking to enact the resolution, and that was to grant immunity from liability rising from someone not being able to conceal carry, which potentially risks taxpayer monies. When Amanda thought through that, she felt it is a hypothetical and it has never happened. This is the first piece of legislation that is being put through, for a hypothetical, because the City isn’t doing it and its confusing. Amanda felt that if it is confusing to follow a posted sign not bring in a gun into the build, she asked if the same people should be bringing firearms into a building and are the same people that you want walking around with a gun in their pocket, because they might have to leave their firearm in the car. Amanda asked if they could not plan ahead and be prepared so they are not in that situation. Amanda said similar arguments have been used in the abortion debate, to not put yourself in that situation. Amanda commented that there is no method of enforcement in county buildings and asked why we are not solving for that problem and are bringing more guns to the floor. The policy would apply to county buildings like Brookside, Public Safety Building, the Administration Building. Amanda asked if really need people walking around with guns in those buildings, and when visiting her grandmother at Brookside if she had to worry about the guy next to her carrying. Amanda added that she is not a public safety expert but read through the resolution and came to her own logical conclusions and in these situations, she looks to the experts. Amanda did some research and looked at what the Harvard Injury Control Research Center was saying, Scientific American Journal, Kenosha County Sheriff, amongst other articles and experts. Amanda said that experts say gun violence is at an epidemic level in our country. Looking at the United States, we have more mass shootings then many of the other countries out there. Guns are not used millions of times each year in self-defense, and everyone wants to pack for self-defense, but this isn’t how guns are being used. Firearms are being used far more often to intimidate than in self-defense and very few criminals are shot by decent law-abiding citizens. Amanda said if we look locally, even our Sheriff, is against this and has concerns with the increase of guns on public property and being additional stressors on Law Enforcement Officers.

Reverend Kevin Beebe of the Spirit Alive Lutheran Church and resides as 2312 Washington Rd., Kenosha:
Kevin stated that he is the Pastor at Spirit Alive Lutheran Church here in Kenosha. Kevin said he heard a lot of statistics and things like that, and he comes as a faith perspective. Kevin requested that if you are not a Christian, to provide him some space on this. Kevin said he spent a lot of time in prayer, as a faith leader, as someone who’s faith is supposed to be the moral grounds of every part of my life, including the laws that he follows. Kevin said that in his prayer life during the week he had thought about the resolution and about Matthew 20:6, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, where comes Judas, the soldiers, the police officers, and an unnamed Disciple. In the Gospel of John, the Disciple was named by Matthew as Peter. Peter pulled out a sword and cuts off an ear, and Jesus says, “Those who live by the sword, will die by the sword”. Kevin said he struggled with that in comparison with the rest of Jesus’ teachings. They often talk about feeding the poor, clothing the naked, caring for those as the Acts of Mark, and what it means to be a Christian. A follower in the way of Christ, not a follower of weapons, and the resolution, is the first choice to follow the way of weapons. Instead of feeding the poor and taking care of the hungry of our community. Kevin said that in his prayer life he has other things come up, and he thought about those that we entrust with our safety. The men and women who wear badges and carry guns, who are security. Kevin said he thought of Jemel Roberson, a Security Guard in an Illinois nightclub, who was shot and killed. Jemel had used his gun to defend during a shooting, and an Illinois State Police Officer saw him and fired, because in that moment they did not know he was on
their side. Kevin thought about the decision that everyone who wears a badge will have to make “is this person with a gun, here for safety or here for aggression” and they will not know until someone pulls the trigger, and Kevin commented that is scared him. Kevin added he thought about the kids that go to get food or COVID vaccines at the Health Center, or people that come to the Administrative Building to get marriage certificates, and asked if they need to worry about safety because they don’t know who has, or does not have, a weapon. Kevin said if our faith is what grounds us and our morals, be it Christian or otherwise, as almost every major faith in the world speaks of peace and safety without weapons. Kevin commented that the Shalom of God in Hebrew should be what grounds us, that should be not what comes through the sword, for “those who live by the sword, die by the sword.” Kevin added that comes through peace, through the breaking of bread, through clothing the naked, for becoming one people without weapons, or as Isaiah says, “to beat the swords into plowshares and we will study war no more.”

Carol McEnteiart of 6675 235th Ave., Paddock Lake:  
Carol stated that proactive studies, after our State allowed us to have conceal carry, have shown that homicides have increased, assaults have increased with guns, and violence and assaults to Police Officers have increased. Carol said that it is not working, and in public buildings where you have sensitive populations, potential discourse and disagreements, discussions about laws, it is a difficult place to have guns of an unknown origin. You are again leaving it to the police to decide who is carrying for a good purpose and who is carrying for harm.

**Supervisor Comments:** 7:02  
Supervisor Wamboldt took the opportunity to introduce the new Youth in Governance, Alex Didinsky and Ben Rothove.

**Chairman Comments:** 7:02 None  
Chairman Rodriguez said he also wanted to welcome the new Youth in Governance, and the Committee as a whole, as this is the first time they had met altogether. Chairman Rodriguez welcomed back Supervisor Belsky and congratulated her on being approved for 2nd Vice-Chair during the last meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes from April 6th, 2022:** 7:02  
**Motion by:** Wamboldt  **Seconded by:** Franco  **Approved:** unanimously with amendments

Amendments from staff included the swapping of speakers in the minutes, on the bottom of page 5 and the top of page 6, between Supervisor Franco and Supervisor Bashaw. The minutes were corrected to reflect the correct speakers.

**Resolution from the Kenosha Sheriff’s Department:**  
Approving the 2022 Country Thunder Activity Control License  
**Motion by:** Nordigian  **Seconded by:** Belsky  **Approved:** unanimously with contingency

7:03: Captain of Operations Tony Gonzalez, of the Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department, presented. Supervisor Nordigian asked if the check was received for the estimated bond amount. Cpt. Gonzalez replied it has not, he had been in contact with a representative from Country Thunder and the check was being mailed out that week. Supervisor Nordigian said on the agreement, on Page 5 #43, “…this check shall be received before review of the Activity Control License by the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee…”. Chairman Rodriguez said he could speak to this, originally this resolution would come before the committee next month in July, it would have to have its readings in front of the County Board and then there would be a two-day period, should some hiccup happen, to address the issue before the event. In order to avoid that, it was moved forward to this month, so should something happen, Country Thunder or the Sheriff’s Department has ample time to do that. Cpt. Gonzalez added that it is the only item pending right now, they were hoping to get it prior to the meeting, but they were advised it would be sent out this week, via post, after the Memorial Day weekend.
Supervisor Decker asked if this was typically approved before Country Thunder gets their liquor license from town. Cpt. Gonzalez replied that to his knowledge, the Liquor License had been approved prior to the meeting. Cpt. Gonzalez spoke with the Clerk, who provided a verbal guarantee that it was given a pre-pass and was waiting for the meeting in June to be brought up.

Supervisor Bashaw asked about the Cabaret License where is says “Cabaret License to AZ - Wisconsin Ranch...$150.00”, but the check was issued in the sum of $200, and Supervisor Bashaw wanted to know if it was a discrepancy. Cpt. Gonzalez replied that the Cabaret License was separate from the Activity Control License, which is $200. Chairman Rodriguez asked if the Cabaret License was approved last year. Cpt. Gonzalez said it was and added that the copy with the receipt on the bottom, under comments, it says, “Activity Control License” and he verified that with the County Clerk. Supervisor Bashaw replied that it was their check memo-line that was incorrect.

Supervisor Bashaw asked about the bond of $275k that was unpaid, and if it was because it is $50k more than the prior year. Supervisor Bashaw also asked about the Sheriff’s Activities section, and based on what happened in Waukesha, Texas, and other places, if there is an anticipated enhancement in security, and will the $275k be sufficient to cover the costs incurred. Cpt. Gonzalez replied that it includes the wage increases, benefit increases, and inflation that comes with the supplies being used. The bond had not been increased for Country Thunder in several years and it was due. Supervisor Bashaw replied that was what concerned him, if the $50k increase over prior years is sufficient. Cpt. Gonzalez replied it was, the numbers were looked at with the Fiscal Manager at the Sheriff’s Department and taken into consideration the anticipated expenses and they are comfortable with that. Supervisor Bashaw asked if it included last year’s activities and efforts and not a perspective based on potential efforts here with the environment we are in, to which Cpt. Gonzalez agreed.

Supervisor Bashaw commented that there is clumsiness in the agreement itself on Item 34, “…free all-access passes with VIP parking…”. Supervisor Bashaw said that the words “all access passes” was the language used from Supervisors who previously attended Country Thunder and it resulted in an investigation. Supervisor Bashaw thought that they don’t need “VIP all-access pass” for events or activities, but instead a staff, inspector, county service, or Health Department pass. A different type of access that grants employees rights to the facilities but not run-of-the-park VIP passes. Supervisor Nordigian clarified if it was all-access pass or VIP parking. Supervisor Bashaw replied all-access pass for the Health Department and asked why it was needed, instead of a facility pass for specific activities that shows they are an employee there to perform a job.

Chairman Rodriguez asked Cpt. Gonzalez if he could speak to the last several years when they have seen a reduction in all total interactions with Law Enforcement and if there is any equipment being brought out to Country Thunder this year. Cpt. Gonzalez replied they are not necessarily bringing new equipment, but they will be using different strategies as far as using the assets out there, with personnel in different areas and more strategic than in the past. Chairman Rodriguez asked how many different agencies were assisting this year. Cpt. Gonzalez replied up to three or four more agencies, depending on the number of sworn officers they can commit to assisting with the event.

Chairman Rodriguez clarified for the room that the county does not spend levy dollars and it is all returned from Country Thunder. Cpt. Gonzalez added that is what the bond amount is for. Supervisor Nordigian motioned to approve with the receipt of the bond payment prior to the next County Board meeting, seconded by Supervisor Belsky. Motion passes unanimously with no further discussion.

Resolution from Kenosha County Board of Supervisors:
A Resolution to Amend the 2011 Resolution 63 – (#64) A Resolution to Ban Firearms, Explosives, and Other Weapons in Kenosha County Buildings
Motion by: Decker Seconded by: Nordigian Approved: with amendments

AMENDMENT 1: Addition of “WHEREAS, the right to bear arms is defined and protected by the Constitution of the United States and the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights.”, inserted following the first “WHEREAS,...” statement.
Motion by: Bashaw Seconded by: Decker Approved: with amendments

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AMENDMENT 2: Addition of "...in any building or grounds..." to read: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the County of Kenosha that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Statutes are allowed in any building or on any grounds owned, leased, or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County courthouse, public safety building, jail, detention center, pre-trial building, and Molinaro building, and;"
Motion by: Rodriguez    Seconded by: Decker    Approved: with amendments

AMENDMENT 3: Replacing the following three statements on the original resolution to now read as:
"NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the possession of some concealed or openly displayed weapons in Kenosha County buildings may be a danger to the public and should be regulated, and;"  
"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the County of Kenosha that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Statutes are allowed in any building or on any grounds owned, leased, or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County courthouse, public safety building, jail, detention center, pre-trial building, and Molinaro building, and;"
Removal of phrase "and any citizen who is convicted of such offense shall be banned from appearing before the Kenosha County employees within county buildings" to now read: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the display of or brandishing of any weapon on Kenosha County building properties for the purposes of threat, intimidation or to cause harm shall be fully addressed by the fullest extent of the law, and;"
Motion by: Bashaw    Seconded by: Decker    Approved: with amendments

AMENDMENT 4: Addition of "policies" and "procedures" and "safety guidelines" which are not currently included in the draft resolution to read: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Administration and Human Resources will update its employee policies, procedures, and safety guidelines, to be consistent with this resolution and the laws and statues of the State of Wisconsin, and;"  
Addition of "within 6 months" to now read: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Kenosha County Executive shall cause the removal of signs previously posted under 2011 Ordinance #63, and further, to place in effect procedures to enforce this revised policy within 6 months of adoption of this policy."
Motion by: Bashaw    Seconded by: Decker    Approved: with amendments

7:13: Supervisor Decker deferred to Supervisor Bashaw, who had provided to the committee a list of amendments prior to the meeting. Supervisor Bashaw thanks the citizens for their emails, comments, and phone calls. Supervisor Bashaw stated that it was an emotional issue and there is a lot of fear and uncertainty about being safe from predators, criminals, and insane acts carried out by people. They destroy our trust and confidence that we are safe. Supervisor Bashaw commented that he did not believe they should act based on that. Supervisor Bashaw did not read his comments but noted that there was a lot of good and positive things as well as items of concern. Supervisor Bashaw added his position on this resolution was focused around our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and our form of government, based on how we act and lead in that form of government. Supervisor Bashaw asked Chairman Rodriguez how he should proceed with the amendments, perhaps to make a motion to amend or allow for review first.

Chairman Rodriguez started with review and asked for clarification on the supplied amendments by Supervisor Bashaw, if the additional to modify the "Now Therefore" statements are to replace the statements on the original resolution. Supervisor Bashaw replied that they were to replace the original resolution statements. Chairman Rodriguez then asked where the additional "Where As" statement was being inserted into. Supervisor Bashaw replied it was to be inserted after the first "Where As" statement on the document: "Whereas, the right to bear arms is defined and protected by the constitution of the United States and the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights".

Supervisor Bashaw wanted to provide clarification on the amended "Therefore" statements he had proposed. Supervisor Bashaw felt that the original "Therefore" statements in the 2011 resolution left some ambiguity to them and wanted to clarify and make the statements cleaner in the context of constitutional authority. Supervisor Bashaw proposed that his amended "Therefore" statements would be in lieu of the statements currently in the draft document, "The Resolution to Amend the 2011 63....".

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Chairman Rodriguez asked Supervisor Bashaw which statement had been added. Supervisor Bashaw replied he had changed words and added another line to “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the display of, or the brandishing of, any weapon on Kenosha County Building Properties for the purposes of threat, intimidation, or to cause harm shall be fully addressed by the fullest extent of the law, and any citizen who is convicted of such offense shall be banned from appearing before the Kenosha County employees within county buildings, and;”. Supervisor Bashaw commented that a person with a Concealed Carry License (CCL) carries in confidence and they generally do not want people to know that they are carrying. A person with ill intent does not care about the sign on the door telling them not to carry and instead are there to make sure people know they are with ill intent, so the statement makes the reference clear that any person brandishing or threatening, whether it be a baseball bat or a can of paint, that it will be addressed and that’s what the statement calls out. Supervisor Wamboldt agreed with the statement but asked if the second half was legal where it states “...and any citizen who is convicted of such offense shall be banned from appearing before Kenosha County employees within county buildings...”, Chairman Rodriguez and Supervisor Decker agreed that it was a concern of theirs too if it can be done from a legal standpoint. Supervisor Bashaw replied that he did not know either and the statement was “in the spirit of”, if that a person is there doing that, he wouldn’t want to see them back there again. Supervisor Wamboldt replied that from his Law Enforcement background, it depended on the offense. If it were a felony like murder or a mass shooting that was one thing, but something like threats or intimidation maybe falls under disorderly conduct and they may have rights if it is a lesser offense. Supervisor Bashaw replied that it was written in “the spirit” and can be struck. Supervisor Wamboldt said that he went through the changes best he could having received it the same day of the meeting and that’s what stuck out to him, the rest he did not have a problem with. Chairman Rodriguez asked if Supervisor Bashaw was willing to pull that part of the statement. Supervisor Bashaw replied he was willing to amend and remove “…and any citizen who is convicted of such offense shall be banned from appearing before Kenosha County employees within county buildings...”. Chairman Rodriguez clarified that it would then read “...fullest extent of the law, and;” and moving on to the next “Be It Further Resolved...”, to which Supervisor Bashaw agreed.

Supervisor Decker asked about the statement what the common areas were in the proposed change of “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of Kenosha County that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Laws and Statutes are allowed with the common areas of any building owned, leased or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County Courthouse, Public Safety Building, Jail, Detention Center, Pre-Trial Building, and the Molinaro Building or any other location restricted by law, and;”. Supervisor Bashaw replied that “common areas” referred to those generally open to the public. Supervisor Decker asked about an Employee Hearing. Supervisor Bashaw replied that he believed it was covered under another proposed statement “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kenosha County Administration and Human Resources shall update its employee policies, procedures, and safety guidelines, to be consistent with this resolution and the laws and statues of the State of Wisconsin, and;” and by the another proposed statement of “NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the possession of some concealed or openly displayed weapons in Kenosha County buildings may be a danger to the public and should be regulated, and”. Supervisor Bashaw commented that to him it was common areas, not necessarily a policy statement about employees but a policy statement about the public having the right to carry. Supervisor Decker responded that it did not state “public” in the original statement but “common areas”, so it reads no one, even employees, can carry anywhere except common areas. Supervisor Bashaw asked if Supervisor Decker would like to purpose changes. Supervisor Decker responded she would remove “...the common areas of...” so it would be “...are allowed within any building owned...”. Supervisor Bashaw replied he had reservations as to why he liked “common areas” versus leaving it open. Supervisor Bashaw commented that he comes from many work environments where carrying during works hours was not authorized. Many have concerns within these buildings about their co-workers, and he spoke with quite a few of them about carrying within the workspace as a general rule, and he believes we control this as a workspace. Supervisor Bashaw didn’t want to take it that far because there are some things that should be considered for safety and protecting the facilities. The same persons who were nervous about coworkers carrying were also the same people who were worried about the public coming in carrying, and the coworkers do not have a defense. Supervisor Bashaw referred to the recent mass shooting in Texas, saying it took over an hour and fifteen minutes before there was direct confrontation with the criminal. Supervisor Bashaw stated he felt they need better guidance on how to protect the facilities, as employees and workers, and how to keep the work environment safe should be considered. Supervisor Bashaw went to the term “common areas” in “the spirit of” thinking about public
coming in carrying versus employees carrying. Supervisor Decker stated that this was a legal document so it cannot be “in the spirit of” something. Supervisor Bashaw responded that he understood but it was his thought process going down the path. When reading the document his focus is on concealed carry as a legal right, but then as an employee in the building, the employer has a legal right to create constraints around it. Supervisor Bashaw said if he were to put in there saying “any employee can carry within the building” he would then supersede the employer’s ability to say “no, you cannot carry while you are working or performing your work functions within the building.”. Supervisor Belsky asked if the document needed to go to legal. Chairman Rodriguez stated that he is not going to support the few words “the common areas of”. If you are not an employee or elected official of Kenosha County, there are areas you are not allowed. Chairman Rodriguez used the example that he cannot go across to the courthouse to Room 204 and behind the desk, because he is not allowed to do that. Chairman Rodriguez add that he thought it adds confusion if you’re allowed to carry in the buildings or if you’re not. Supervisor Decker asked if a cubicle would be considered a common area. Supervisor Bashaw replied it would be an employee space. Supervisor Decker stated that the State Statute says that employers restrict Conceal Carry then are liable, so this would be restricting the Conceal Carry, so an employee can carry in a common area but if they go to their cubicle it is not a common area. Supervisor Bashaw replied that it would require policy statements for the employer to determine on how to secure.

Chairman Rodriguez added that the County Board is the employer. Supervisor Bashaw replied he understood. Chairman Rodriguez asked again if Supervisor Bashaw was willing to remove the “the common areas of”, and if not he would be voting against the amendment. Supervisor Bashaw offered to modify to “…within the public and authorized workspaces of any building owned…”. Chairman Rodriguez felt it was still confusing and would not support that. Supervisor Decker added she did not like to leave it open and asked who authorized the workspaces. Supervisor Bashaw replied they are not authorized in the Detention Center, Pre-Trial, Molinaro, Public Safety, and Courthouse buildings as written in the other statement. Chairman Rodriguez commented that in an attempt to make the statement clearer, it was less clear. Chairman Rodriguez asked if Supervisor Bashaw would like to make the motion for the changes. Supervisor Bashaw motioned to accept the modified resolution excluding “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of Kenosha County that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Laws and Statutes are allowed with the common areas of any building owned, leased or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County Courthouse, Public Safety Building, Jail, Detention Center, Pre-Trial Building, and the Molinaro Building or any other location restricted by law, and;”, pending further discussion and to work on the language and bring it back.

Chairman Rodriguez said he felt the more appropriate motion would be to add the additional “WHEREAS, the right to bear arms is defined and protected by the Constitution of the United States and the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights.”, inserted following the first original “WHEREAS…” statement. Supervisor Decker asked if it was being deferred. Chairman Rodriguez replied there was not a motion to defer and would like to continue discussion if there is not a motion on it. Supervisor Bashaw motioned to approve the amendment of the additional “WHEREAS, the right to bear arms…” statement, seconded by Supervisor Decker. Motion to amend passes.

Chairman Rodriguez made a motion to amend the statement “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the County of Kenosha that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Statutes are allowed in any building owned, leased, or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County courthouse, public safety building, jail, detention center, pre-trial building, and Molinaro building, and;” and change the wording to “in any building or on any grounds owned, leased…”.

Motion was seconded by Supervisor Decker. Motion to amend passes.

Chairman Rodriguez asked if Supervisor Decker or Supervisor Bashaw had anything further. Supervisor Bashaw made a motion to adopt and replace, on the original document, the following three statements, from the proposed amended statements. The first statement is “NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the possession of some concealed or openly displayed weapons in Kenosha County buildings may be a danger to the public and should be regulated, and;”. The second statement is “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of the County of Kenosha that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Statutes are allowed in any building or on any grounds owned, leased, or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County courthouse, public safety building, jail, detention center, pre-trial building, and Molinaro building, and;”. The third statement has the removal of the phrase “…and any citizen who is convicted of such offense shall be banned from appearing before the
Kenosha County employees within county buildings...” to now read: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the display of or brandishing of any weapon on Kenosha County building properties for the purposes of threat, intimidation or to cause harm shall be fully addressed by the fullest extent of the law, and,”. Motion to adopt and replace the three amended statement was seconded by Supervisor Decker. Motion to amend and replace the statements passes.

Supervisor Bashaw made a motion to adopt and replace, on the original document, the following two statements, from the proposed amended statements. The first statement has the addition of “policies” and “procedures” and “safety guidelines” which are not currently included in the draft resolution to read: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kenosha County Administration and Human Resources will update its employee policies, procedures, and safety guidelines, to be consistent with this resolution and the laws and statues of the State of Wisconsin, and;”. The second statement has the addition of “within 6 months” to now read: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Kenosha County Executive shall cause the removal of signs previously posted under 2011 Ordinance #63, and further, to place in effect procedures to enforce this revised policy within 6 months of adoption of this policy.”. Supervisor Decker seconded the motion but asked why to wait “6 months” as read on the second statement. Supervisor Bashaw replied the original document did not specify a time. Supervisor Decker commented that it currently meant immediately, and then asked Supervisor Bashaw why he had chosen 6 months. Supervisor Bashaw replied it takes time to have signs, policies, procedures, enacted into place and allowed time to execute. Chairman Rodriguez asked Supervisor Bashaw’s proposed statement changed anything from the original. Supervisor Bashaw replied he had added “policies” and “procedures” and “safety guidelines” which are not currently included in the original document. Chairman Rodriguez asked Supervisor Bashaw was good to keep at it 6 months, to which she agreed. Motion to adopt and replace the two amended statement was seconded by Supervisor Decker. Motion to amend and replace the statements passes.

Chairman Rodriguez circled back to the statement “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of Kenosha County that firearms and electronic weapons legally possessed and carried per Wisconsin State Laws and Statutes are allowed with the common areas of any building owned, leased or controlled by Kenosha County, excluding the Kenosha County Courthouse, Public Safety Building, Jail, Detention Center, Pre-Trial Building, and the Molinaro Building or any other location restricted by law, and;”. Supervisor Bashaw stated he was willing to amend it but was not excited about it. Supervisor Decker commented that it didn’t need to be amended at all and could be left with Supervisor Bashaw’s language. Supervisor Bashaw made a motion to insert the proposed amended statement “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it shall be the policy of Kenosha County...” in lieu of the original statement on the document and replacing “common areas” with “…in any building or on any grounds owned, leased, or controlled by Kenosha County...”. Chairman Rodriguez stated that this amendment was already done. Supervisor Decker added that the motion was made by Chairman Rodriguez, seconded by herself, and it was already voted so the amendment will stand.

Chairman Rodriguez stated that they were back to the resolution, as a whole, included the just amended statements, and wanted to add a few comments. Chairman Rodriguez had heard comments and questions that night about why there are exceptions in the resolution such as the Courthouse, Public Safety Building, District Attorney’s Office, and the Pre-Trial Facility. He had heard from some citizen that there are exceptions to those buildings and from other citizens that they were now opening the doors to firearms in those buildings, which is not the case. The Kenosha County Board could pass a resolution that says you can carry in the Courthouse, but it would not hold water as Wisconsin State Statutes prohibit any person, outside of sworn Law Enforcement, from possessing a firearm or weapon in a Courthouse or any part of a building being used as a Courthouse. For example, while you can carry in Kenosha City Hall, you cannot carry in the room where they hold Municipal Court. The Public Safety building is also exempt per State Statutes, unless you are a sworn Law Enforcement Officer, you cannot carry a firearm or weapon into that building, whether the resolution passes or not. The District Attorney’s Office (DA’s Office) is not exempt per State Statute and there was a discussion at the Public Works facilities meeting, where there was concern as to whether or not that would be considered “...any part of the building that is a courthouse...”, as per State Statue, since there is tunnel connecting the two buildings. To avoid legal conflict and make things easier, it was included as well. Chairman Rodriguez wanted to clarify that the Pre-Trial is a court facility attached to the Jail, so you cannot carry, even before that change was made at the last committee meeting. Chairman Rodriguez wanted to address the DA’s Office specifically, and the ability to be buzzed in. At the Public Safety Building you can walk right in during normal business hours and after hours you must be buzzed into the building. The DA’s
Office is not like that, you must get buzzed into the building at any time of the day, so there is an additional level of security. Chairman Rodriguez said that he had heard that night that someone might get upset about their Food Share Card, which does not have on it what they thought they had on it, and the resolution today as it stands, has signs up on the buildings. Chairman Rodriguez commented that if someone was angry they were to physically harm or threaten another, because of something like that, then a sign on a door is not going to stop that person. Signs currently do not stop people from speeding or leaving bars with alcohol. Signs do not stop people from doing things, but they do stop law abiding citizens who can legally possess a weapon, from carrying that weapon into the building. Chairman Rodriguez said that he heard about Sheriff Beth’s concerns, specifically with the Administration Building, in regard to Ruther Central High School and Harborside Academy just on the other side of Civic Park. Chairman Rodriguez said it is against Federal laws to carry a firearm on school grounds, including parking lots, football fields, tracks, etc. The resolution does not affect KUSD and they are not saying it is okay to carry weapons inside schools. If a person does not have a CCL in Wisconsin or issued from another State that is honored in Wisconsin, you cannot come into the building with a firearm because of the closeness of that school. If you have a CCL, you are allowed in exemption to carry a firearm in the building.

Supervisor Belsky stated that she received numerous phone calls and emails and attempted to answer them all. Supervisor Belsky stated that her decision for voting “No” on the resolution, stems from a recent experience that happened to her the previous week prior to the meeting. Supervisor Belsky’s home is adjacent to Poerio Nature Center, where she heard someone shoot a gun very close to her home. Supervisor Belsky had called 9-1-1 and while on the phone with them after two minutes, heard someone scream and fire shots at her home 5 times, where she dropped to the ground on her surgical knee, and her PT (physical therapist) who came in the door and stated “someone is firing at your home”. Dispatch sent police over to the home and she could not say for certain if she was being shot at specifically, but it was loud enough to shake her to the core. Supervisor Belsky stated that she hopes nobody experiences being shot at and that she was voting “No” for that reason.

Supervisor Franco stated he will not be supporting the resolution. Supervisor Franco stated it would not be productive to have a drawn-out discussion on the pro’s and cons of CCL, but instead wanted to focus on the issues relative to the language of the resolution, Act 35, and the Heller Decision. Supervisor Franco said that as he was preparing for tonight, he referenced the 2008 Supreme Court’s Heller Decision, which established Constitutional Rights for every individual to own or posses a gun for self-defense. Supervisor Franco added that it was a tailored decision with 5:4 as far as unanimous, with the focus was on owning and possessing a handgun in the home. Supervisor Franco said he was doing research on the Heller Decision and listening to the gun discussion on the New York law that the Supreme Court will be deciding on in June. Supervisor Franco noticed in the language of the Heller Decision; it talks about “sensitive places”. Supervisor Franco quoted a section from the holding, that was also a part of the major decision that was read by Scalia in 2008: “Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. From Blackstone through the 19th-century cases, commentators and courts routinely explained that the right was not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose...Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. From Blackstone through the 19th-century cases, commentators and courts routinely explained that the right was not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose. Although we do not undertake an exhaustive historical analysis today of the full scope of the Second Amendment, nothing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.”. Supervisor Franco found the language used interesting as it didn’t say “some government buildings” or specify the type or broadly states “government buildings” and he wondered why a government building was considered a “sensitive place.” Supervisor Franco found that interesting because of Act 35. Supervisor Franco stated that any Supreme decision preempts Federal Legislation, State Legislation or Statutes, and takes priority. Supervisor Franco stated that it occurred to him that Act 35 is in conflict with the Heller Decision, because Act 35 makes prohibitions such as carrying concealed weapons in the Courthouse, Public Safety Building, Jail, etc. It did not forbid it at the Administration Building or the Kenosha County Center, or Brookside. Supervisor Franco stated he found it interesting that not only is Act 35 is in conflict with the Heller Decision, but it puts the State in the position of trying to determine where carrying a concealed weapon is right and going to make us safer.
Supervisor Franco said that if you look at Act 35 it puts advocates of concealed carry in a position. Supervisor Franco asked if concealed carry is going to make us safer, then why employees of the Kenosha County Center or Brookside have the right to defend themselves, but persons at the Courthouse, Jail, Pre-Trial, and Public Safety Buildings do not have that right. Supervisor Franco asked if they have the right and guns will make us safer, then why was it prohibited in Act 35. Supervisor Franco stated that maybe we should accept the Heller Decision that all government buildings should be exempt from concealed carry because it is a "sensitive place". Supervisor Franco said he had an issue with the enforcement arm, as the situation is now, even if the resolution passes, they are a soft target. Supervisor Franco commented that soft targets are everywhere and unfortunately today you can get shot anywhere. Supervisor Franco agreed with Chairman Rodriguez that signs are not going to stop a mentally deranged person or employee, someone who’s wife is divorcing him or someone who got fired from a job, examples that have been heard of before. Supervisor Franco asked if the resolution was passed, how it was going to be enforced, like at the Courthouse for example. Supervisor Franco said he spoke with Sheriff Beth who said they had several metal detectors not being used. Supervisor Franco suggested implementing them at the Courthouse, the Kenosha County Center, or Brookside, but then the metal detectors would have to be manned. This would increase security profile, otherwise a person could walk in without a security presence or metal detector, with a concealed weapon and no one would know about it, despite being a good guy or bad guy. There would be someone there to monitor and check for CCL, and unless that component is being added it will not get any better. Supervisor Franco said that the resolution would lead to a more dangerous situation, because there is no deterrent not. Supervisor Franco addressed the immunity liability issue and referenced the language in the resolution “…the Wisconsin Statute states that a property owned or an employer who chooses not to prohibit an individual or employee from carrying a concealed weapon onto its premises is immune from any liability arising from its decision…”. Supervisor Franco used the example of a person bringing in a concealed gun that accidentally discharges in the building, hitting someone, the employer or property owner is immune from liability stemming from that accident. The Statute does not say that the opposite is true, that the owner or employer is liable if they prohibit individuals from carrying concealed weapons onto the premises from any incident that may occur from this decision. Supervisor Franco used the example of a person walking into a building and open fire, the Statue does not make the owner or property owner liable.

Supervisor Decker called for a Point of Order, stating there was no information talking about liability or immunity from liability, it was specifically discussed with Corporation Council and that’s why there was no wording present. Supervisor Decker quoted from the resolution stating “immunity from liability”, with no wording that says you can be liable, because Corporation Council came down to discuss it. Supervisor Franco read from the resolution “WHEREAS, 2011 Wisconsin Act 35 grants employers that do not prohibit one or more employees from lawfully carrying a concealed weapon immunity from any liability arising from its decision, and; WHEREAS, banning the passion of lawfully carried weapons on county property, Kenosha County has lost immunity from liability risking taxpayer money if sued, and;”. Supervisor Decker emphasized the portion of “...if sued...”. There was some discussion on if Supervisor Decker had called a Point of Order, to which Chairman Rodriguez agreed that she had.

Supervisor Franco continued with his example of a person walking into a building opening fire, the Statue does not make an employer or property owner liable for this incident because they prohibited conceal carry. As the insurance company had explained, when the question came up in 2011, “…it was determined it was far too speculative to argue that if someone had been allowed to carry a weapon on to the premises, the would’ve been able to stop the incident, and therefore the property owner or employer is liable.” Supervisor Franco said that based on the insurance company, and other insurance companies, they did not increase the liability premiums as a result of this prohibition. The decision not to raise insurance premiums means they did not see a liability risk. Supervisor Franco said the insurance company did not believe the liability increased as a result of their determination. Supervisor Franco stated that there is a No-Stop Gap Coverage implicated as a result of that decision, and to date, neither Supervisor Franco nor the insurance company for the county, WMMIC, are aware of any lawsuits that either have alleged or found any employer or property owner is liable for any incident because guns or weapons were not allowed on the premises. Supervisor Franco stated that the Budget Director had indicated property insurance premiums did not increase as a result of the 2011 Resolution, meaning the property insurance did not believe there is an increased liability as a result of the determination. Supervisor Franco stated he had serious reservations about many of the issues in the resolution, but tried to stick with the Constitutional, legal, and practical considerations. If the resolution was about beefing
up security, adding metal detectors, bullet proof glass, squads out front, or more Sheriff Deputies, Supervisor Franco would support it. Supervisor Franco stated he could not see how expanding concealed carry in these circumstances, would agree with the Heller Decision and brings up problems in terms of enforcement, so he would not be supporting the resolution.

Supervisor Wamboldt commented that most people in the room knew he has been in law enforcement for 30 years and teaches crime prevention, which some might recognize if they have been to his presentations on how to survive an attack. Supervisor Wamboldt said he knew it was a sensitive issue, but they were talking about legal versus illegal weapons. That the people who are in possession of the weapons being discussed are law abiding citizen that are trained and have a permit, they are not criminals. Supervisor Wamboldt commented that sometimes people think “mass shootings” when they hear guns, but as stated by a citizen, we have more guns then people. That tells us that maybe not all guns, or people possessing them, are committing crimes and most people with guns are law abiding. It’s the people not law abiding that we have to worry about. Supervisor Wamboldt addressed and sympathized with Supervisor Belsky. Supervisor Wamboldt was familiar with the case in Poerio Park and said Supervisor Belsky was in fear for her life and had no means of defending herself. Supervisor Belsky replied that she does have a registered Glock and does have guns, but never would have thought to shoot back at somebody. Supervisor Wamboldt said that every scenario is different where if that person was in front you, and you legally have the right to possess a gun, you could potentially defend yourself. Supervisor Wamboldt provided a different example of in his 30 years on the Kenosha Police Department, there was someone who legally possessed a weapon and was able to defend and maybe save themselves from harm or death but did not want to disclose specifics. Supervisor Wamboldt spoke about his active shooter presentation, which takes place in a School Board setting. A man comes in with a weapon unchallenged, paces up and down the room for several minutes, and nothing can happen to this man because he has the weapon, but if the School Board members or someone else legally possessed a weapon they may have been able to take care of the situation. Supervisor Wamboldt asked the room to put themselves in that situation for real, similar to what Supervisor Belsky just went through, and it is very emotional and likely to change your life. Supervisor Wamboldt gave an example of a friend of his who works for the county, went on an inspection with another employee and knocked on the door of the home, and the owner comes to the door brandishing a weapon on his hip because he did not want the inspectors at his house and was sending a message. It’s intimidating and the employees left right away. Supervisor Wamboldt said to change the scenario a little bit and asked what if the person wanted to commit an act of violence against the employees. They would have been stuck and could do nothing to defend themselves. Supervisor Wamboldt said was not suggesting everyone would have, or even want, a gun. They have choices, they are not criminals and are lawfully owning and possessing those weapons. Supervisor Wamboldt said that most of the time you don’t know who is possessing the concealed weapons because nothing happens and probably one of the reasons City Hall in Kenosha does not have the sign on the door. Supervisor Wamboldt said that in his world, signs say you are a soft target. That means as a criminal, they can go in and probably will not be met with resistance. Supervisor Wamboldt commented that schools are soft targets, as tragic as they are, and even the Las Vegas shooting. The mass shooters, the criminals, are targeting soft targets like schools, or the School Board setting used earlier, because there is no resistance. If someone is focused on killing, as Supervisor Franco said, then it does not matter, and if there is an upset estranged spouse, formally known as “going postal”, there is nobody that will stop them and they are focused on hurting others and no laws or signs will change that. Supervisor Wamboldt said someone earlier had mentioned trusting law enforcement to keep them safe and agreed that was part of it but in those attacks, such as Columbine or other mass shootings, the police are delayed and are not there in that moment. Supervisor Wamboldt said that when he teaches they talk about Columbine, similar to what happened in Texas, which took 45 minutes to get inside the school and the citizens have to do something to protect themselves. It takes law enforcement at least three minutes to get to any critical incident in Kenosha, the national average is 6-7 minutes, and something bad will happen in the time it takes for the police to get there. Supervisor Wamboldt said to trust in law enforcement to a degree but to also trust in yourself if you’re legally allowed to posses a firearm. Supervisor Wamboldt said that a citizen mentioned gun violence as an epidemic, which he felt is true, but it is criminals do it at those level. Part of the issue is consequences are lacking in our society as opposed to someone legally possessing a firearm. Supervisor Wamboldt said they are talking about illegal behavior, which should be kept at the forefront and he would be supporting the resolution for the reasons stated and believes there is safety.
Supervisor Franco asked for a quick follow up and appreciated Supervisor Wamboldt’s perspective as a law enforcement officer. Supervisor Franco asked Supervisor Belsky if she had been legally carrying a firearm, if she would’ve been able to shoot the man. Supervisor Belsky replied she would not. Supervisor Franco replied that was his point, just because you have the gun, if you are able to kill someone. Supervisor Franco stated he, like most others excluding perhaps military, have never killed someone. Supervisor Franco said that he asked himself if he would be able to shoot someone, if he had a gun, and the police were not around in that situation. Supervisor Franco thought he would hope to be able to react, but he did not know. No one wants to be put in that situation where you say, “its either him or I”, and nobody knows how they would react. Perhaps if a person’s life was on the line, and they had a gun, they would use it, but every person would have to answer that on their own. Just because a person has a gun, doesn’t mean they are willing to use it, or can use it. Carrying a gun makes you feel safer, but it does not make you safer.

Supervisor Bashaw wanted to touch on his thoughts from today’s discussion. Supervisor Bashaw asked the room what they were afraid of, whether it was him with a CCL or the Police Officers. A CCL holder goes through extensive background checks and training and considered to be a level-headed individual that can contain themselves in a situation, and criminals are not CCL holders. Supervisor Belsky replied that was untrue. Supervisor Bashaw conceded that they could be a CCL holder, but generally criminals do not go to the extent of following the dictates of the law to gain a CCL. Supervisor Bashaw commented that he assumed people have walked into the Administration Building, or another building, with a gun in their belt at some point. A sign at the door does not compel them to obey the law. Civilized people have agreed to live by civil order and obey the laws. We do not employ a method to preclude a person from entering our government facility with a weapon, either in offense or defense, and we should recognize that it takes malice in the heart that a person will not be deterred or dissuaded from acting. Supervisor Bashaw commented on a recent Kenosha News article four days prior, about a woman at an event. A shooter had a long gun and fired into the crowd. A woman pulled a gun from her purse and used it to neutralize the threat. Having the ability and deterrent is can be a response in a time of crisis. Supervisor Bashaw said not every person would react in the same way, including himself. Supervisor Bashaw stated he had a 45-Caliber, with a 6-inch barrel, set on the tip of his nose in his younger years. It is a compelling moment and you see a lot of things flash before your eyes. It happened from a person Supervisor Bashaw thought was relatively stable, but he did not know that person just had illegal drugs, traversing through the community, dropped off in his basement and he was terrified in that moment, and so was Supervisor Bashaw. Guns can be scary, but they are also tools and devices and when used appropriately can do good. Supervisor Bashaw said during the recent Presidential campaign, one president threatened the citizen of the United States by stating they had jettison nuclear weapons. Supervisor Bashaw asked why a Presidential candidate would want to tell citizens that he “has bigger guns than you”. Supervisor Bashaw said that is what the founding fathers wrote, for an oppressive government that exceeds the bounds of what is acceptable and becomes something it is not meant to be. Government cannot act with impunity and reckless disregard for citizens. Supervisor Bashaw thought it unrealistic that persons who choose not to live by laws, rules, or common agreement of a civilized society, will suddenly be compelled to be good citizens, by restricting legally and constitutionally protected principals. Supervisor Bashaw stated that yesterday there was a head-on accident between an automobile and a school bus. The driver of the automobile was a drunk driver on their third offense. Supervisor Bashaw said that if the first or second message did not get across, and he saw the signs and was even arrested and fined for it saying, “you can’t do that”, it still did not stop the third offense. If it had been a smaller bus, a bigger vehicle, different time of day, it could’ve been a calamity. If it had been a mother with 5-6 kids in a van with her it could’ve been a tragedy. We condone drinking and driving with rules, but people do not follow rules. Supervisor Bashaw stated he could not see having more signs or rules taking care of the problem. Supervisor Bashaw said we see the war on our streets every day and it is not between CCL holders or gun owners that legally own firearms. Supervisor Bashaw stated he has been to outings with 150 people with weapons, and nobody is concerned about a person with one of those tools in their hand. Supervisor Bashaw stated it is not the device but the person behind it. We transpose the fear of the criminal onto the law-abiding citizen and it is an afront to our Constitutional Republic. The law should be applied to criminal behavior and address those that live outside societal norms. Supervisor Bashaw stated a citizen mention in an email how we compare to other countries. Supervisor Bashaw looked into it and the United States is not in the Top 50 countries, with regards to violent homicide murder rates, but citizens believe we are the worst country to have this happening. Kenosha County had in 2021, 520 total violent homicide rates, robbery, and aggravated assault, according to Federal crime data. In a
population of 1.7 million people, that is 0.0306% as it relates to 100k people. Supervisor Bashaw said he felt it was heinous to punish people who have gone through the process of earning a CCL and are responsible in their behaviors and to do so in a government facility where they were to stand up for Constitutional Rights and justice. Supervisor Bashaw said the resolution supports the foundations of government and not the opposite of tearing down the foundations of our government or nation. The resolution is focused on the rights of the CCL holders. They completed the process appropriately, it protects legal constitutional authority and rights, it does not expend or expound to create new rights, access points, or authorities. The resolution does not conspire to put any person in jeopardy. Supervisor Bashaw said if after speaking with employees in the buildings, they feel the facilities are not safe, we should take measures to make them safer and not soft targets. We’ve taken measures already by putting in glass and walls in the Administration Building. If there are other safety measures we should address those and focus on them. Supervisor Bashaw stated he is not for ablating the Constitutional authorities of citizens and will be voting for the resolution.

Supervisor Decker mad a motion to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nordigian.

Chairman Rodriguez stated he wanted to add a few things, which may be reiteration of what has already been heard. Chairman Rodriguez addressed the citizen that stated they had spoken yesterday about him carrying. Chairman Rodriguez stated he is always carrying a firearm on his person, depending on where he is, for instance tonight he did not have a firearm on him, but when he leaves the building he will have the firearm back on him. Chairman Rodriguez said he would have that firearm on him while he traveled on his way home, or if he stopped in a store. Chairman Rodriguez said that he is not asserting that if presented with a situation where his safety, or the safety of another, is at risk that he would “end the battle” but knows he would try. Chairman Rodriguez stated that ten-out-of-ten times if the choice before him was his life or another’s, whether it was a stranger, family member, or friend, that he would try to protect that life. Chairman Rodriguez stated he might not get a bullet out, or get taken out, but he would try. Chairman Rodriguez thought the fear that some had was not rationale, if the fear of others having firearms around you should not supersede the right to carry.

In Kenosha County a vast majority places you can carry, and Chairman Rodriguez goes on about his life as if nothing has changed. These places include both Festival Foods, Walmart, many places of worship, most stores, and in most people’s homes. If a business owner decides not to allow it, that is their prerogative, but there are burdens that come with that. Chairman Rodriguez said that in 2016, towards the end of the President Obama’s administration, he had his Department of Justice and Bureau of Statistics conduct research on both State and Federal inmates. Inmates being housed for crimes related to gun violence, of the thousands housed at that time, only 1.1% obtained their firearms legally. The vast majority went through unground sales, borrowed from another person, purchased by somebody else besides the user, stole the gun, or took it from their victims or scene of the crime. Chairman Rodriguez said if the resolution passes, they are not telling everyone has to carry firearms. Nor is it logical or feasible to then amp up security, in the same way that Walmart, Festival Foods, churches, and small businesses do not have armed security and metal detectors at their doors. Chairman Rodriguez said the choice to carry was the person’s prerogative and the person who does carry may not choose to protect another, they may choose to flee with no duty to protect those around them. Some will choose to protect those around them and themselves and that is what the resolution affords people to do. A person who goes into the Child Support Office, disagrees with a property tax statement, or angry with what the County Board and comes to a meeting, to hurt someone is going to do that regardless if the resolution is passed or not.

Supervisor Decker motioned to approve, seconded by Supervisor Nordigian. Rollcall was taken and the motion passed with no further discussion.

Any Other Business Allowed by Law:
8:26: Chairman Rodriguez addressed Chief Deputy saying he contacted Cpt. Horace Staples and left a voicemail about the yearly jail tour at both campuses. They wanted to do the jail tour possibly next month in July or in August. Chairman Rodriguez contacted Sheriff Beth who was on board. Chairman Rodriguez also said that this year, Sheriff Beth was willing to make an exception for Youth in Governance and accommodate them for jail tours. Chairman Rodriguez addressed Alexa and Ben, the Youth in Governance in attendance, and let them know to contact their mentor if they wished to tour the Pre-Trial Facility, Detentions Facility, or both.
Meeting Adjourned: 8:27: on motion by Supervisor Decker; seconded by Supervisor Nordigian.

A recording of the meeting is available online at kenoshacounty.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Werfelmann

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