

1 **2015 RES-229**

2 **DESIGNATING SPACE IN THE DOWNTOWN COUNTY PARKING RAMP FOR PERSONAL**
3 **STORAGE LOCKERS FOR THE HOMELESS**

4 In August, 2012, Res. 87, 12-13 was introduced to address unmet basic needs of homeless
5 persons in the downtown area, particularly the need for restrooms, personal storage space, and
6 showers. When the final substitute amendment of the resolution was adopted, it authorized the
7 county to rent space at 827 E. Washington for a day shelter for the homeless that was to meet
8 these basic needs. Although showers never materialized at the day shelter, during shelter
9 hours, homeless persons could access restrooms and storage lockers. Additionally, a portable
10 toilet was placed in the County Parking Ramp on Henry St. shortly after passage of Res.
11 87. Later, an additional handicapped accessible portable toilet was placed outside the City-
12 County Building near the corner of Doty St. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Personal storage
13 space was accessible at 827 E. Washington until the day shelter closed March 31, 2013.

14 Since the closure of the temporary day shelter, Dane County has worked with the City of
15 Madison to address unmet needs, including, but not limited to showers and personal storage
16 space. The City of Madison has funded a storage program located at the Social Justice Center
17 at 1202 Williamson St. Space at the Social Justice Center site is limited, however, and over one
18 (1) mile from downtown locations where homeless persons utilize public spaces and access
19 services and shelters. More recently, the City of Madison created a fenced in area outside the
20 Madison Municipal building to store belongings of persons sleeping around the City County
21 Building, but it has since closed due to a number of problems associated with it. Due to the
22 lack of a comprehensive daytime resource center downtown offering personal storage space for
23 homeless persons, additional space is needed to ensure homeless persons have the ability to
24 safely store their personal belongings, including, but not limited to gear for sleeping on the
25 streets. Homeless persons should not have to carry all of their belongings on their backs when
26 they are going to work, applying for jobs, going to a doctor's appointment, or accessing other
27 services. Since disabled persons are over-represented among the homeless population,
28 persons with disabilities are even more burdened by having to carry all their belongings on their
29 person.

30 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County designate space and place personal
31 storage lockers in its downtown parking ramp which can be utilized by homeless persons to
32 store their personal belongings;

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the storage lockers shall be large enough to store sleeping
34 gear and a backpack;

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the necessary costs to purchase and service the lockers will
36 come from borrowing proceeds;

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County requests the City of Madison work with its
38 parking utility to designate space for additional lockers in the City of Madison downtown parking
39 ramps;

40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that these lockers shall remain in place until such time as a
41 comprehensive day resource center offers equivalent access to personal storage for homeless
42 persons in the downtown area.