1	2020 RES-162
2	REQUESTING INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON MINORITY- AND WOMEN-
3	OWNED BUSINESSES ON THE LIST OF BILLS OVER \$10,000 REFERRED
4	TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Since the mid-2000s, Dane County leadership has taken steps to examine the causes of racial
inequities and developed strategies to eliminate them. The county has defined equity as *"fair and just inclusion into a society in which all, including all racial and ethnic groups, can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equity gives all people a just and fair shot in*

9 life despite historic patterns of racial and economic exclusion."

10 Dane County's commitment to equity and inclusion is embodied and codified in its ordinances,

11 policies, and numerous initiatives focused on eliminating racial disparities across Dane County

- 12 Government operations, including in the areas of procurement and contracting.
- 13 In 2015, the Dane County Board contracted with outside experts to examine government
- 14 operations, policies, and practices from a racial equity perspective. The resulting report, drafted

15 by the Center for Social Inclusion (CSI) and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity

16 (GARE), provided several recommendations for creating contracting and procurement policies

and procedures to eliminate racial equity barriers and to reflect and benefit the racially diverse

- 18 population of residents in the Dane County community.
- In 2017, the Dane County Board contracted with MGT Consulting Group (MGT) to conduct a
 targeted evaluation of Dane County government contracting and purchasing processes and
 policies with a focus on racial and social equity.
- 22

The major impetus for this evaluation was the county's commitment to eliminating racial disparities in Dane County and improving economic prosperity through contracting equity. This evaluation provided further guidance and direction for increasing the participation of minorityand women-owned businesses in contracting and procurement in Dane County government.

20

28 Dane County's Contract Compliance and Targeted Business Plan defines a Minority-Owned

Business as "a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, joint venture or

30 corporation that fulfills both of the following requirements: (a) It is at least 51% owned, controlled

and actively managed by a minority group member or members who are U.S. citizens or

32 persons lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, as defined under 8

- 33 USC 1101 (a)(20) and (b) It is currently performing a useful business function."
- 34

35 Dane County defines minority as follows: "*Minority includes Blacks or all persons having origins*

in any of the black African racial groups not of Hispanic origin; Hispanic or all persons of
 Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin,

regardless of race: Asian or Pacific Islander or all persons having origins in any of the original

39 peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands; and

40 American Indian or Alaskan Native and all persons having origins in any of the original peoples

- 41 of North America."
- 42

43 Dane County's Contract Compliance and Targeted Business Plan defines a Women-Owned

44 Business as "an independent and valid business concern that is owned by and controlled by

45 women. A woman or women must own fifty -one percent (51%) of the business and control the

46 management and daily operation of the business."

- 47
- 48 Contracting and procurement policies and practices can have a significant community impact 49 and can serve multiple purposes. In addition to ensuring that Dane County departments and 50 agencies provide the necessary goods and services to meet residents' needs, contracting and 51 procurement can also be a powerful mechanism for promoting economic empowerment and 52
- 52 equity among minority- and women-owned businesses.
- 53
- 54 Dane County recognizes that increasing participation of minority- and women-owned
- 55 businesses is an organization-wide shared responsibility and is not solely the responsibility of
- the Purchasing Division or the Office for Equity and Inclusion. As such, it is important for Dane
- 57 County government to increase awareness and transparency for all departments and policy
- 58 makers regarding the county's performance with respect to contracting with minority- and 59 women-owned businesses.
- 60
- While there are numerous ways to increase transparency around contracting equity in Dane
 County government, including increased outreach, tracking, reporting, and recruiting focused on
 minority- and women-owned businesses, one place to start is by augmenting the transparency
 of the list of *Bills Over \$10,000 Referred to the County Board*, which is prepared and emailed by
- the Dane County Controller's Office to the County Board before each scheduled County Board
- 66 meeting. 67
- 68 Currently, the list of *Bills Over \$10,000 Referred to the County Board* includes the business
- name and the amount paid for bills incurred in the operation of Dane County departments and
 that the Controller's Office has recommended be allowed by the County Board.
- 70 that 71
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board acknowledges that
- 73 contracting equity is critical to achieving Dane County's goal of eliminating racial disparities and
- advancing economic empowerment and equity among minority- and women-owned businesses.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board recognizes
 that Dane County government's efforts to advance racial and social equity will be informed and
- 78 accelerated by greater transparency regarding our performance in this area.
- 79
- 80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board requests that
- 81 the list of *Bills Over \$10,000 Referred to the County Board*, which is prepared and emailed by
- 82 the Dane County Controller's Office to the County Board before each scheduled County Board
- 83 meeting, include additional information indicating whether each business listed is a minority-
- 84 and/or women-owned business, as self-reported by the business.