

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-21

A Resolution Opposing Double Taxation of Municipal Taxpayers for Law Enforcement Services

WHEREAS, the Cities of Cedarburg, Mequon, and Port Washington, and the Villages of Grafton, Saukville and Thiensville provide a full-service 24-hour police protection to their residents; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing said service is included in the property tax levy of each of those six municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department provides various levels of basic police protection, including patrol, investigation, and dispatch services in the other areas of the County at an annual cost of over \$3.48 million; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the County Sheriff to provide those services is included in the general County property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the current funding arrangement results in the taxpayers of the Cities of Cedarburg, Mequon and Port Washington, and the Villages of Grafton, Thiensville and Saukville being taxed for patrol and investigation services provided by Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department in other communities, as well as being taxed for local police services, thus providing an unfair subsidy to those other communities; and

WHEREAS, Ozaukee County has already established the precedent of charging for services received through the Highway Department; and

WHEREAS, each municipality should provide funding from its own tax levy for police service provided to its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Common Council of the City of Cedarburg supports LRB-0554 and urges the State Legislature to make appropriate Statutory revisions to permit counties to vary levies for communities based on different levels of services provided to communities, especially those with their own police departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Jim Doyle, State Senator Glenn Grothman and State Representative Mark Gottlieb, local media and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Passed and adopted this 16th day of April 2007.

Gregory P. Myers, Mayor

Attest:

Sandra M. Ingram, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Kaye K. Vance, City Attorney