RESOLUTION 2020-07 SUPPORTING NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR PREPARATION OF LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin legislature is directed to redraw state legislative districts "according to the number of inhabitants" at its next session following the decennial federal census; the legislature also reapportions congressional districts at the same interval pursuant to federal law; and

WHEREAS, manipulating elections by drawing partisan district boundaries is antithetical to a representative, consensus-based democracy because it removes power and trust from voters and promotes candidate polarization; and there is a need to restore fairness and legitimacy to the Wisconsin democratic process; and

WHEREAS, because these state and congressional districts belong to the citizens of Wisconsin and not to any legislator, interest group, or political party, the redistricting process should not be used by those in power to protect their power or achieve partisan gains, but should be designed in the best interests of Wisconsin's democracy:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Citizens and Board of Trustees of the Village of Arlington hereby request an amendment to the Wisconsin State Constitution directing the responsibility of legislative redistricting to a nonpartisan commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Arlington Board of Trustees requests that the Wisconsin state legislature, before the start of the next redistricting process following the 2020 federal census, pass legislation establishing a nonpartisan commission to transparently prepare legislative and congressional district maps that emphasize geographic contiguity, consistency with natural and political boundaries (such as county lines), and compactness (generally low perimeter-to-area ratio) and that are not based on past voting patterns, party information, incumbents' residential information or demographic information (except as necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the U.S. Constitution); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to each of the following: Governor Tony Evers, all Wisconsin state representatives and Wisconsin state senators who represent Columbia County, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Wisconsin League of Municipalities.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2020 by the citizens of the Village of Arlington, Columbia County, Wisconsin.

an Bjorge, Village President