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4 **AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION**

5  
6 Celebrating the civic and design contributions of Frederick Law Olmsted to Washington  
7 Park, Milwaukee County, and the United States; renaming the roadway in Washington  
8 Park to Olmsted Way; and allocating \$2,000 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for  
9 Contingencies to Org. Unit 9010 Parks, Recreation and Culture Administration to update  
10 the signage

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13 WHEREAS, the father of American landscape architecture, Frederick Law  
14 Olmsted (1822-1903), was a renowned landscape architect, urban planner,  
15 conservationist, and **social reformer adherent of the City Beautiful Movement**, who  
16 is known for promoting democracy through his designing of urban parks, including  
17 Central Park in New York City; and

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19 WHEREAS, Olmsted was a leading abolitionist whose journalism about “The  
20 Cotton Kingdom” documented the horrors of slavery in the Antebellum South; and

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22 WHEREAS, Olmsted designed the “Grand Necklace of Parks” in Milwaukee  
23 County, including West Park (renamed Washington Park in 1900), Lake Park, Riverside  
24 Park, and East Newberry Boulevard, linking Lake and Riverside Parks; and envisioned  
25 for Milwaukee’s lakefront a “Shore Drive,” which became Lincoln Memorial Drive, and a  
26 road to connect the lake and the bluff, which became Ravine Road; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Olmsted was a contemporary of the leading Milwaukee parks  
29 proponent of the 1890s, **founding Chairman of the City of Milwaukee Park**  
30 **Commission father of the Milwaukee County Park System**, and namesake for the  
31 former Wahl Park, Christian Wahl (1829-1901) (File No. 20-548); and Olmsted inspired  
32 future landscape architecture and planning in the United States, influencing the **Garden**  
33 **City Movement urban and national parks movements in America**; and was an  
34 inspiration for Milwaukee County Parks Commissioner Charles B. Whitnall’s vision for  
35 parks and parkways, and Milwaukee’s greenway boulevards; and

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37 WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee’s Park Board chaired by Christian Wahl, hired  
38 Olmsted in the 1890s to **help select early first park sites and to** design **three of**  
39 **them, including** West Park, **who where Olmsted** implemented his characteristic  
40 elements of naturalistic vistas, curvilinear pathways, and a picturesque lagoon; and

41 Milwaukee County later acquired the renamed Washington Park from the City of  
42 Milwaukee in 1937; and

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44 WHEREAS, Washington Park has historically been a multi-use space with  
45 facilities constructed for outdoor performances, athletic fields, lawn tennis courts,  
46 boating, ice skating, **and formerly** a six-hole golf course, a horse racing track, and a  
47 toboggan slide; and

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49 WHEREAS, Washington Park was home to the Milwaukee County Zoo from  
50 1892 to 1958, **growing from a small “deer paddock” specified in Olmsted’s general**  
51 **plan in 1892, to include a miniature mammal and bird display, to by the turn of the**  
52 **20<sup>th</sup> Century holding 800 animals on 23 acres, all** prior to the construction of the  
53 current Milwaukee County Zoo; and

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55 WHEREAS, Washington Park today contains a major senior citizen center,  
56 operated by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division on Aging; and

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58 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 19-227 in April of 2019, which  
59 leased certain land and the boathouse at Washington Park to the Urban Ecology Center  
60 to increase programming related to education, land conservation and stewardship, and  
61 community programs serving the Park and neighborhood; and

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63 **WHEREAS, as Washington Park is intended to be a calm place for people**  
64 **to relax and engage in recreation, traffic calming techniques in the Washington**  
65 **Park roadway are essential, including: a road center line, a bike lane, and**  
66 **crosswalk striping with crosswalk signage; and**

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68 WHEREAS, Washington Park is beloved by both residents living nearby and  
69 throughout the Milwaukee County community and is an essential part of the “Grand  
70 Necklace of Parks” in Milwaukee County, a crucial piece of Frederick Law Olmsted’s  
71 vision and legacy; and

72

73 WHEREAS, April 26, 2022 marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Olmsted’s birth,  
74 Milwaukee County honors Frederick Law Olmsted’s contributions to the Milwaukee  
75 County Parks System through naming a street in his memory; and

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77 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of July 19, 2022,  
78 recommended adoption of File No. 22-769 as amended (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

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80 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby celebrates 200 years since the  
81 birth of Frederick Law Olmsted and honors his legacy and influence in Milwaukee  
82 County Parks, and Olmsted's broader civic contributions to American life; and  
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84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
85 hereby renames the approximate half-mile roadway within Washington Park,  
86 terminating at State Highway 175, also known as the Stadium Freeway, and the  
87 intersection West Vliet Street and West Highland Boulevard, as Olmsted Way; and  
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89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
90 hereby authorizes and directs the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to  
91 perform any steps necessary to implement the change, including updating signage in  
92 and around Washington Park to reflect the new name; and  
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94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
95 hereby authorizes and directs the Office of the Comptroller and the Department of  
96 Administrative Services to process an administrative transfer of ~~\$2,000~~ \$14,000 from  
97 Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to Org. Unit 9010 – Parks,  
98 Recreation and Culture Administration to purchase the supplies and materials  
99 necessary to update signage in the Washington Park roadway; and to implement  
100 traffic calming modifications in the new Olmstead Way, a center line in the road,  
101 bike lanes, and crosswalk striping with appropriate signage for two crosswalks.  
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106 Resolution.docx