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(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Weddle, Rainey, and Johnson, Jr., authorizing the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to conduct a feasibility analysis of creating a Milwaukee County Youth Chess Program within the Milwaukee County Park System, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to fostering cultural, educational, and recreational growth for residential youth; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Chess Trust, studies show that youth who participate in chess programs tend to have enhanced problem-solving skills, concentration, creativity, and intellectual maturity; and

WHEREAS, playing chess can also build self-esteem and improve academic performance, as concluded in a 2009 study from Temple University that showed participation in chess correlated with higher statewide math and reading test scores; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture has demonstrated an interest in incorporating and expanding chess activities in areas that would greatly benefit from additional programming; and

WHEREAS, during a time when budgetary restraints have limited schools and other agencies in their ability to provide extracurricular activities and programs for youth, it is important for Milwaukee County to make additional and supplemental efforts to provide resources and opportunities for up and coming generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) to conduct an analysis on the feasibility of implementing a Milwaukee County Youth Chess Program beginning in Summer 2015, targeted towards youth in kindergarten through eighth grade, to include chess instruction, coaching, and accessible equipment for the purpose of learning the game and skills of chess with the potential of competitive participation in tournaments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DPRC shall focus on Washington Park, Lincoln Park, McGovern Park, Mitchell Park, and Sherman Park as the designated areas for launching the pilot chess program for the County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as part of the analysis, DPRC shall conduct a Request for Information to identify potential chess coaches and mentors who would provide instruction and coaching services for the Milwaukee County Youth Chess Program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DPRC shall analyze the costs and feasibility of installing permanent, built-in chess board tables at the five proposed pilot program sites, initially planning for two tables per park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DPRC shall work with partners and contacts within the community to secure potential funding donations and additional resources to assist with implementing the Milwaukee County Youth Chess Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DPRC shall submit a report on the results of this feasibility analysis to the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment for the May 2015 cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, based on the results of the feasibility report, DPRC shall proceed with the development and implementation of the Milwaukee County Youth Chess Program, which shall be subject to County Board approval.

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