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A resolution by Supervisors Ortiz-Velez, Martin, Nicholson, Shea, and Logsdon, requesting the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture issue a Request for Proposals related to the lease of a greenhouse at Mitchell Park to a private entity for the purpose of propagating hemp clones and to report back to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors the results of the process, including recommendations for moving forward, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are seven greenhouses at Mitchell Park, constructed in 2014, which are state-of-the-art, sustainable facilities, totaling over 60,000 square feet, with precise temperature, shade, and lighting controls, as well as systems for capturing and saving snow and rainwater; and

WHEREAS, passage of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) allowed States to create agricultural pilot programs to “study the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial hemp”; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Farm Bill defines “industrial hemp” as “the plant Cannabis sativa L. and any part of such plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis”; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Farm Bill did not change hemp’s classification as a Schedule 1 drug, keeping it illegal for all other purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Federal agencies forbid the transport of hemp seeds and plants over State lines; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017, the State of Wisconsin (the State) passed Act 100, and legalized the growing and processing of industrial hemp through the Industrial Hemp Pilot Research Program; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) adopted File No. 18-690 on September 20, 2018, requesting a report on possible revenue-generating uses for the Mitchell Park greenhouses, including the potential to grow and produce industrial hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil, or the construction of a Grow Education Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, hemp cloning is the process by which new hemp plants are cultivated by taking a cut from the stem or tap-root of a mother hemp plant, which can then grow independently; and

46 WHEREAS, cloning is an efficient method of producing female hemp plants,
47 which are advantageous because the flower produces significantly higher quantities of
48 cannabinoids than the male flower; and

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50 WHEREAS, cloning produces high-quality, consistent plants that can be grown in
51 a sustainable method, and offers options for organic certification; and

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53 WHEREAS, producing clones for in-state farmers reduces the likelihood that
54 harmful environmental factors, including disease and parasites, from outside of the
55 State enter Wisconsin's agricultural spaces; and

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57 WHEREAS, the Mitchell Park greenhouses provide an environment suitable to
58 growing hemp clones; and

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60 WHEREAS, it is well documented that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and
61 Culture suffers from severe underfunding and millions of dollars in deferred
62 maintenance, including at Mitchell Park, and the Mitchell Park Horticultural
63 Conservatory (the Domes); and

64
65 WHEREAS, a possible revenue source to offset the operation and capital costs
66 at Mitchell Park could be to lease one or more of the greenhouses to a private entity for
67 the purposes of propagating and selling hemp clones; and

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69 WHEREAS, the County would benefit from exploring a private-public partnership
70 related to the resurgence of the hemp industry; and

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72 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of
73 October 29, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-718 (vote 4-1) as amended;
74 now, therefore,

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76 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
77 requests that the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC), issue
78 a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the lease of a greenhouse, **for a minimum of**
79 **two years**, which could include the possibility of leasing any necessary ancillary spaces
80 **and options for maximizing revenue**, at Mitchell Park, to a private entity for the
81 purpose of propagating hemp clones; and

82
83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, acceptable responses to the RFP must**
84 **include information related to the following items:**

- 85
- 86 • **Costs related to additional security infrastructure, including, but not**
87 **limited to, intruder detection, security guards, video surveillance,**
88 **and additional physical barriers; and**
 - 89 • **Ongoing documentation that product(s) contain no more than 0.3**
90 **percent of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol on a dry weight basis; and**
 - 91 • **Plans for preparations for possible seizure of hemp plants, seeds,**
and related material by State and Federal agencies

92 : and

93

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, DPRC, shall report back to the
95 County Board with the results of the RFP, including their recommendations for moving
96 forward.

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