

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** February 5, 2020

**TO:** Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, County Board Chairman

**FROM:** Charles Wikenhauser, Zoo Director

**SUBJECT:** **APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE**

**ISSUE**

The Milwaukee County Zoo requests approval to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The agreement includes a renewable four-year term and describes the relationship and authority of each party as well as revenues, expenses, and benefits provided by each respective organization.

**BACKGROUND**

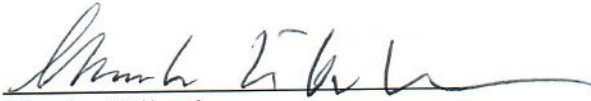
The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (Society) and Milwaukee County (County) have been partners in supporting the Milwaukee County Zoo for over 100 years. An initial MOU between the two parties was adopted on February 11, 1989 and renewed on February 11, 1992, and November 27, 1996. The present MOU was adopted April 24, 2014 and will end in May, 2020. During this time, the Society has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in operating support and co-funded three capital programs of \$26 million and \$29 million respectively and is currently raising \$25 million in support of the three phases of Adventure Africa. The Society also provides the educational programs and creative services for Zoo signage and printed materials as well as a large volunteer organization called Zoo Pride.

In the new MOU, the Society continues to provide educational programming and creative services. In addition, the Zoo will continue to receive 50% of the membership fees collected by the Society. In 2020, this will provide \$3,356,554. Additional details regarding financial assistance provided by the Society in 2020 are provided in the attached Fiscal Note.

In exchange for the direct financial support, the County will continue to provide the Society's members with free admission and parking and space on Zoo grounds for Society Administration and program needs. Additional specific details are listed in the attached MOU document. It has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Risk Management and Comptroller's Office.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Director of the Milwaukee County Zoo be authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee for a period of four (4) years with the option to renew for an additional four (4) year term if mutually agreeable to both parties.



Charles Wikenhauser  
Zoo Director

- c: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Supervisor James Schmitt, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Audit  
Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairman, Parks, Energy, and Environment Committee  
Scott Manske, Comptroller  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Comptroller's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Emily Peterson, Research Analyst, Comptroller's Office  
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, MC Clerk's Office  
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal and Budget Director, DAS – PSB Division  
Pam Matthews, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS – PSB Division  
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director (Admin./Finance/Operations)  
Jodi Gibson, President, Zoological Society of Milwaukee County