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5 **A RESOLUTION**
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7 Urging the Wisconsin State Fair Executive Director, Board of Directors, Police & Public
8 Safety officials and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan
9 to secure the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds and host the Wisconsin State Fair without
10 closing the Hank Aaron State Trail
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13 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Fair is one of Wisconsin’s most beloved
14 attractions, drawing more than one million visitors to Milwaukee County each year; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Hank Aaron State Trail is a beloved 14-mile paved east-to-west
17 connection that enables residents and cycling enthusiasts to safely travel to work,
18 explore the county, reach some of the county’s top destinations, exercise and more; and
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20 WHEREAS, on August 4, 2022, with no advance notice, a prominent section of
21 the Hank Aaron State Trail – extending from 76th to 84th Street – was closed at the
22 request of the Wisconsin State Fair Board Chairman “to secure the entire perimeter of
23 State Fair Park during the 11-Day Wisconsin State Fair;” and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hank Aaron State Trail connects to Milwaukee County’s 135-
26 mile Oak Leaf Trail (Kinnickinnic Line) at South 76th street, thus cutting off access to
27 users approaching from the west; and
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29 WHEREAS, it’s unclear if countermeasures to secure the grounds without closing
30 the Hank Aaron State Trail were considered by Wisconsin State Fair leaders; and
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32 WHEREAS, the closure of the Hank Aaron State Trail created hardship and
33 unsafe riding conditions for the duration of the fair, forcing cyclists and pedestrians on to
34 nearby congested roads filled with Wisconsin State Fairgoer vehicle traffic; and
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36 WHEREAS, an ideal plan would enable the Wisconsin State Fair to co-exist with
37 the Hank Aaron State Trail; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of
40 September 12, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-931 (vote 3-1); now,
41 therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby calls upon the Wisconsin State Fair Executive Director, Board of Directors, Police & Public Safety officials and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan to secure the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds and host future Wisconsin State Fairs without closing the Hank Aaron State Trail; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Office of the Sheriff, and any other relevant officials are requested to offer their input and guidance to Wisconsin State Fair officials in the development of a plan to keep the Hank Aaron State Trail operational while ensuring site security during the annual event; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Office of Government Affairs staff is authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to relevant officials.

09/12/22
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