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4 **A RESOLUTION**

5  
6 authorizing and directing the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture conduct a  
7 safety study to identify measures necessary to improve swim safety, beach  
8 sustainability and water quality at McKinley Beach and authorizing an appropriation  
9 transfer of \$70,000 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to an  
10 appropriate account within Org. Unit 9000 Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
11 Culture  
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14 WHEREAS, McKinley Beach is a smaller beach located adjacent to McKinley  
15 Marina on Lake Michigan; and  
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17 WHEREAS, McKinley Beach is a popular lakefront destination in the summer  
18 due to its proximity to the Oak Leaf Trail, local vendors, other large parks, and the larger  
19 Bradford Beach; and  
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21 WHEREAS, for at least the past decade, no lifeguards are assigned by the  
22 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) to monitor McKinley Beach; and  
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24 WHEREAS, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic drove an increasing number of  
25 people from all over Milwaukee County to outdoor spaces for recreation, including  
26 McKinley Beach; and  
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28 WHEREAS, over the course of 2020, three individuals died while swimming in  
29 the lake at McKinley Beach, with two deaths occurring in the same week; and  
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31 WHEREAS, as a result, McKinley Beach was closed to swimmers for the  
32 remainder of 2020 to protect residents and further investigate the reason for the  
33 increased incidence of drownings; and  
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35 WHEREAS, for the past several years, a renewed interest in swimming  
36 education and water safety emerged after the drowning death of a child at Atwater  
37 Beach in 2017; and  
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39 WHEREAS, the 2018 and 2019 Adopted Budgets included funding for DPRC to  
40 establish a Diversity in Swimming program to provide swimming lessons to people of

41 color in Milwaukee County and to encourage park users to practice safety when at the  
42 beach or pool; and

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44 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Milwaukee County take measures to ensure its  
45 beaches are accessible to all users, especially people of color who are historically  
46 underserved in water safety and swimming education; and

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48 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's mission is to become the healthiest county in  
49 Wisconsin through the achievement of racial equity (File No. 20-174) and part of that  
50 goal is to ensure that our recreation spaces are accessible and safe for people of color;  
51 and

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53 WHEREAS, the 2020 Adopted Budget included a provision requiring that a safety  
54 study be performed at McKinley Beach to combat future drownings, assess the  
55 condition of the water, its currents, and the beach, and any remediation efforts that may  
56 be necessary and it included \$10,000 to retain a professional to carry out such a study;  
57 and

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59 WHEREAS, DPRC provided an interim report in File No. 21-97 indicating that an  
60 additional \$70,000 would be necessary to complete a safety study, which would include:

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- 62 • A Bathymetric Survey, which measures the depth of a water body and  
63 maps underwater features, and wave analysis
- 64 • Geotechnical Engineering, which includes shoreline drilling and testing of  
65 sediments, amongst other findings
- 66 • Coastal Engineering, which would provide a report on swim safety, water  
67 quality, beach sustainability, a preliminary explanation of possible  
68 solutions or remedies, construction estimates, and a potential construction  
69 schedule

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73 WHEREAS, in total, \$80,000 is required for the study and would not include the  
74 implementation of any solutions or remedies; and

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76 WHEREAS, conducting a safety study at McKinley Beach is vital to  
77 understanding how Milwaukee County can improve safety for its residents and allow the  
78 beach to remain accessible and open; and

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80 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of March 18, 2021,  
81 recommended adoption of File No. 21-227 (vote 6-0); now, therefore,

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83 BE IT RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County supports conducting a safety study at  
84 McKinley Beach and the hiring of a consultant to provide the information outlined in File  
85 No. 21-97; and

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87 BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Administrative Services and  
88 the Office of the Comptroller are authorized to perform an administrative transfer of  
89 \$70,000 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation for Contingencies to an appropriate  
90 account within Org. Unit 9000 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture; and

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92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and  
93 Culture shall provide a report to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors with the  
94 findings of the study upon its completion and a recommendation for moving forward with  
95 implementing the results.

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03/18/2021

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