

1 By Supervisors Wasserman, Taylor(17), Rolland, and Johnson, Jr. File No. 22-761

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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 authorizing and directing a transfer of \$712,190 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 Appropriation
7 for Contingencies to WP076 – McKinley Beach for the purpose of contracting with a
8 vendor for the McKinley Beach restoration and safety project
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11 WHEREAS, McKinley Beach was constructed in 1989 and serves to not only
12 provide a recreational resource along the lakefront, but also functions as a buffer
13 between Lake Michigan and Lincoln Memorial Drive; and
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15 WHEREAS, McKinley Beach is a popular lakefront destination in the summer
16 due to its proximity to the Oak Leaf Trail, local vendors, other large parks, and the larger
17 Bradford Beach; and
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19 WHEREAS, McKinley Beach has remained barricaded and closed to the public
20 since August 2020 when dangerous riptide conditions were identified resulting in
21 several near drownings and multiple fatal drowning incidents, including the most recent
22 tragic loss on May 23, 2022 despite the beach closure; and
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24 WHEREAS, the 2020 Adopted Budget included a provision requiring that a safety
25 study be performed at McKinley Beach to combat future drownings, assess the
26 condition of the water, its currents, the beach, and any remediation efforts that may be
27 necessary and it included \$10,000 to retain a professional to carry out such a study; and
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29 WHEREAS, through File No. 21-227, the Milwaukee County Board of
30 Supervisors allocated an additional \$70,000 to conduct a study of both the conditions
31 present at the beach as well as identify potential solutions to increase swim safety while
32 addressing beach sustainability and water quality; and
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34 WHEREAS, initial findings show that water depth at the jetty line has increased
35 by approximately four feet since the creation of the beach in 1989, this increased depth,
36 as well as multiple wave current factors, have created dangerous conditions that cannot
37 be visually observed by swimmers; and
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39 WHEREAS, the consultants responsible for the study identified five solutions that
40 were presented in a report included in File No. 22-540 that range from modifications and
41 new constructed elements within the lake to permeant beach closure; and

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WHEREAS, a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed solutions helped select the preferred intervention which is to restore McKinley beach to its original intended design, with semi-annual beach grooming and a quinquennial bathymetric survey of the breakwater and swim area to ensure the beach replenishment measures are functioning in place as intended; and

WHEREAS, estimated project costs to restore McKinley Beach to its original design conditions with additional enhanced safety measures is separated into two phases and has an estimated total project cost of \$712,190:

- Phase I - Planning and design (estimated cost \$144,860)
- Phase II - Construction and implementation of improvements with additional enhanced safety measures (estimated cost \$567,330)

;and

WHEREAS, each year \$5 million is budgeted in an Appropriation for Contingencies account with the intent to cover unanticipated events and critical projects- the conditions present at McKinley Beach underscored by the most recent tragic drowning emphasizes the critical nature of this project and demands immediate action; and

WHEREAS, initial project scheduling suggests the final plans and specifications can be completed by Quarter 1 of 2023 and implementation can be substantially completed by Quarter 3 of 2023 if funding for the project is authorized by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors by Fall 2022; and

WHEREAS, without an appropriation of contingency funding by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, the McKinley Beach project would not be complete before Quarter 4 of 2024 resulting in the closure of the beach until the 2025 season; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of June 16, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-761 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors recognizes urgent action is needed to address the hazardous conditions and life safety concerns present at McKinley Beach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of the Comptroller are hereby authorized to execute an appropriation transfer of \$712,190 from Org. Unit 1940-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to capital

82 project WP076 – McKinley Beach for the purpose of contracting with a vendor for the
83 design and construction of the McKinley Beach restoration and safety project.

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