

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: 8/1/2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Amos Morris, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Zoo

Subject: From the Executive Zoo Director, requesting a Temporary Assignment to a Higher Classification (TAHC) extension for Kari Williams

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Executive Zoo Director of the Milwaukee County Zoo is requesting an extension of Kari Williams' TAHC to the position of Director of Animal Management and Health until the position is filled. The request is being made to maintain consistent leadership while recruitment for the position is underway.

POLICY

Chapter 17.085 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires an extension of temporary assignment beyond 180 days be approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 17.085
--	----------------

BACKGROUND

Kari Williams has been filling the role of Director of Animal Management and Health on a TAHC since March 19, 2023, and the TAHC expires on September 11, 2023. This role is responsible for the Animal Division which includes oversight of health and welfare for over 2,100 animals and the management of 79 positions. It's a critical role that needs to be filled until a permanent replacement is found.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the [strategic plan](#):

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

Leadership oversight is needed to provide oversight on the division's \$5.9 million expenditure budget including 79 positions and the care of over 2,100 animals of over 300 species, 365 days per year.

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for the TAHC is available in the 2023 Budget and has a zero net tax levy impact. Backpay is requested if the current TAHC expires prior to County Board approval.

TERMS

The current TAHC expires on September 11, 2023, and the Zoo is asking to extend the TAHC until the position is filled.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director, Amos.Morris@milwaukeecountywi.gov, Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director, Vera.Westphal@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

PREPARED BY:

Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director

APPROVED BY:

Amos Morris, Executive Zoo Director *Amos O Morris, Jr.*

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution, Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk
David Crowley, County Executive
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive
Margo Franklin, Chief Human Resources Officer, Department of Human Resources
Genaro Baez, Director HR Operations and Talent Acquisition
Steve Cady, Director of Research & Policy, Office of Comptroller
Mary Polaris, HR Business Partner
Anthony Rux, Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance
Vera Westphal, Deputy Zoo Director