

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 20, 2021

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

From: Guy Smith, Executive Director, Milwaukee County Parks

Subject: From the Executive Director of Milwaukee County Parks, requesting authorization to grant monetary relief to Zilli Hospitality Group in the amount of \$120,000 due to the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021.

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

Requesting permission to provide monetary relief to Zilli Hospitality Group in the amount of \$120,000 to offset unpaid guarantee commissions due to loss of revenue from the impacts of COVID-19.

**POLICY**

Relief is related to the Boerner Catering and Facility Management Services Agreement adopted by the County Board in File No. 13-476.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	
Specific Adopted Budget:	
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	

**BACKGROUND**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Parks experienced significant operational disruptions across the entire park system. Impacts to the system included special events, pavilion and picnic rentals, community centers, aquatic facilities, horticultural facilities, marinas, and more. These impacts to the park system also had a major impact on our Parks partners. Zilli Hospitality Group (“ZHG”) saw significant impacts to their operations due to government regulations restricting or prohibiting gatherings, capacity limits, public safety and health concerns, and other impacts of the pandemic.

ZHG has not been able to host any events at The Boerner Botanical Gardens between March 14, 2020 and July 2, 2021. According to the executed agreement between Parks and ZHG, ZHG is required to pay \$8000 per month in guaranteed commissions. The inability to schedule events has reportedly deprived ZHG of any income for 9 months in 2020 and 6 months in

2021.

Related File No's:	<a href="#">21-350</a> ; <a href="#">15-223</a> ; <a href="#">13-445</a> ; <a href="#">13-476</a>
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	
Previous Action Date(s):	

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

3B: Enhance the County's fiscal health and sustainability  
Partnerships are important for the long term fiscal health and sustainability of Milwaukee County Parks. By providing this relief the County is ensuring the long term fiscal health of Zilli Hospitality Group at The Boerner Garden. This assistance will allow them to continue to provide services.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

This relief will reduce revenues by \$120,000. The reduction in revenues of \$72,000 in 2020 was accounted for in 2020; however, ZHG is still contractually obligated to pay this amount unless and until relief is granted. The reduction in revenue of \$48,000 in 2021 has not been accounted for and will reduce operating revenue in 2021.

**TERMS**

Not Applicable.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Erica Goblet, Parks Contract Manager

Paul Raasch, Zilli Hospitality Group Vice-President, email [paulr@zillihospitalitygroup.com](mailto:paulr@zillihospitalitygroup.com)

**PREPARED BY:**

Erica Goblet, Parks Contract Manager

**APPROVED BY:**

Guy Smith, Parks Executive Director *Guy Smith*

**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's Office  
Sheldon Wasserman, Parks, Energy & Environment Chair, Supervisor District 3  
Steven Shea, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Vice-Chair, Supervisor District 8  
Felesia Martin, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 7  
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 12  
Liz Sumner, Parks, Energy & Environment Committee Member, Supervisor District 1  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Joseph Lamers, Fiscal & Budget Director, DAS  
Vince Masterson, Fiscal & Strategic Asset Coordinator, DAS  
Pamela Bryant, Capital Finance Manager, Comptroller's Office  
Justin Rodriguez, Capital Finance Analyst, Comptroller's Office  
Kelsey Evans, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk  
Emily Peterson, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller  
Anthony Rux, Budget & Management Analyst, DAS-PSB