

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** November 7, 2022

**TO:** Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Calli Berg, Director, Economic Development

**SUBJECT:** From the Director of Economic Development, requesting approval for the Milwaukee Public Museum deaccession of a Forest County Potawatomi headdress as requested by the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe

**REQUEST**

The Milwaukee Public Museum has received a formal request from the Forest County Potawatomi (FCP) to return a headdress created by FCP tribal member Dennis Shepard. The headdress was confiscated as part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service court case. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initially offered the headdress to the Forest County Potawatomi, but they declined. It was then offered to MPM as a donation in 2000. The headdress will never be on exhibit at MPM at the request of the Forest County Potawatomi at the time of accession. It has not been used for education nor will this be a likely possibility in the future.

All necessary investigation has been done to confirm that it complies with the Milwaukee Public Museum Collections Policy. This deaccession request has been approved by all the required staff at the MPM and was approved by the MPM Board of Directors at the August 18, 2022, meeting.

As policy states, we are now requesting approval for permission to deaccession from the Milwaukee County Board and would like these items to be presented at the next possible Milwaukee County Parks and Culture Committee for initial approval.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The resolution has no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Economic Development Division requests that the County Board approve the attached resolution. The attached resolution authorizes the deaccession of the requested item. Upon these final approvals, please indicate the date approved and return these signed documents to:

Sara Podejko  
Registrar  
Milwaukee Public Museum  
800 W. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 52213

*Calli Berg*

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Calli Berg  
Director, Economic Development

cc: David Crowley, County Executive  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board  
Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman, Chairman, Parks and Culture  
Janelle Jensen, Board of Supervisors Committee Coordinator  
Kelsey Evans, Parks Committee Coordinator