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A resolution by Supervisor Ortiz-Velez requesting the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to conduct a study, and provide a written report, of their conclusions on possible revenue-generating uses for the Mitchell Park Greenhouses, including the potential to grow and produce industrial hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil, or construct a Grow Education Resource Center, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, greenhouses originally located at the Milwaukee County (the County) Grounds in Wauwatosa were demolished as part of the Zoo Interchange reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the State of Wisconsin (the State) Department of Transportation (WisDOT) provided approximately \$14 million to build seven new greenhouses (the Greenhouses) at Mitchell Park, adjacent to the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes); and

WHEREAS, the Greenhouses now grow varieties of plant species for use at the Domes, and at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park; and

WHEREAS, the Greenhouses are state-of-the-art, sustainable facilities, totaling over 60,000 square feet, with precise temperature, shade, and lighting controls, as well as systems for capturing and saving snow and rainwater; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017, the State passed Act 100, and legalized the growing and processing of industrial hemp through the Industrial Hemp Pilot Research Program; and

WHEREAS, the growth and production of industrial hemp is on the rise throughout the United States, indicated by the introduction of House Resolution 5485 (the Hemp Farming Act of 2018) in the United States House of Representatives, which would allow all states to grow and produce industrial hemp, and would remove cannabinoids produced from hemp plants from regulation by the Controlled Substances Act; and

WHEREAS, the County should be an advocate of new and innovative agricultural practices, especially as the social and political climate around hemp and cannabinoid oil, a product of the hemp plant, is quickly evolving; and

WHEREAS, the Greenhouses, because of their state-of-the-art design, could provide an opportunity for studying the growth and production of industrial hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil as a revenue source for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC); and

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WHEREAS, other possibilities for the Greenhouses could include a Grow Education Resource Center (GERC) where the County, along with community partners, could study hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil, placing the County on the frontier of new agricultural practices; and

WHEREAS, a GERC would be an asset to the County by providing an established practice of studying new agricultural practices, especially if marijuana were to become legalized; and

WHEREAS, as the opinion on marijuana evolves and changes at both the State and Federal levels, established practices for studying new industrial agriculture could be beneficial, and could enable the County to be a leader in all types of new growing practices; and

WHEREAS, the Greenhouses, in conjunction with a GERC, could also be used as a Certification Station, which would allow staff to test oils from other growers that have been produced for medicinal use; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a GERC, the Greenhouses could also function as a Research Lab in order to analyze which crops would produce the best hemp plants, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil; and

WHEREAS, the County should develop and encourage practices that ensure a strong agricultural industry throughout the County and State, as it changes and grows; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of September 14, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-690 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County) encourages finding solutions to help fund the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC), and promote agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) hereby requests that the DPRC study different proposals for the best use of the Mitchell Park Greenhouses, including a proposal for growing and producing industrial hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil and a proposal for a Grow Education Resource Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby requests a written report of the conclusions of the study, with forecasted fiscal notes and potential community partnership suggestions for each proposal.

kae

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