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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Authorizing and directing the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to change
7 the name of Johnsons Park to Clarence and Cleopatra Johnson Park and approving a
8 fund transfer of \$9,750 from Agency 194, Org. Unit 1945 – Appropriation for
9 Contingencies to an appropriate account within Org. Unit 9000 – Department of Parks,
10 Recreation, and Culture to update the park signage
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13 WHEREAS, Johnsons Park is a 13-acre triangular park located along West Fond
14 du Lac Ave, North 20th Street, and West Brown Street in the Lindsay Heights
15 neighborhood; and
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17 WHEREAS, historically the Lindsay Heights neighborhood was home to a stop
18 along the underground railroad and today the neighborhood continues to be home
19 primarily to communities of color; and
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21 WHEREAS, Johnsons Park was created in 1955 to bring peace and calm to the
22 neighborhood as some homes in the Johnsons Park neighborhood were demolished to
23 build an expressway, but state and federal governments halted the project; and
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25 WHEREAS, Johnsons Park was named after Clarence and Cleopatra Johnson,
26 owners of Ideal Tailor shop in downtown Milwaukee, and was one of the few black
27 businesses that survived the Great Depression Era; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Johnsons were pillars in the community and worked to improve
30 the quality of life in their community through recreation, activities, baseball, and
31 swimming competitions; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Johnsons also founded the North Central Branch of the YMCA
34 and the Columbia Savings and Loan Association; and
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36 WHEREAS, a report published in 2002 by the Public Policy Forum rated
37 Johnsons Park as one of the most neglected parks in Wisconsin and, in 2005, the
38 Johnsons Park initiative was executed to revitalize Alice’s Garden, Brown Street
39 Academy School yard, and Johnsons Park; and

40 WHEREAS, members of the community participated in the planning and
41 designing of the spaces, which took 12 years to complete with a budget of \$2 million, of
42 which \$1.16 million was raised by private donors, and the remaining \$878,000 was
43 funded by Milwaukee County and the City of Milwaukee; and

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45 WHEREAS, Johnsons Park features many amenities such as a tee-ball field, a
46 performance stage, picnic areas, and an updated lighting system which attracts
47 residents from nearby and surrounding neighborhoods and various organizations; and

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49 WHEREAS, given that Johnsons is a common surname, it is important to rename
50 Johnsons Park to include Clarence and Cleopatra's first name to properly identify them
51 and pay homage to their valuable work in the Johnsons Park community; and

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53 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to ensuring that its parks are named
54 after those individuals or communities that reflect our County's dedication to racial
55 equity; and

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57 WHEREAS, the impact of the legacy that Clarence and Cleopatra Johnson have
58 within the community is monumental and they deserve to be honored appropriately by
59 their first names, celebrated, and acknowledged; and

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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 15, 2022,
62 recommended adoption of File No. 22-1014 (vote 5-2); now, therefore,

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64 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby
65 authorizes and directs the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to change the
66 name of Johnsons Park to Clarence and Cleopatra Johnson Park; and

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Comptroller is hereby
69 authorized to process a fund transfer prepared by the Department of Parks, Recreation
70 and Culture for \$9,750 from Agency 194, Org. Unit 1945 – Appropriation for
71 Contingencies to an appropriate account within Org. Unit 9000 – Department of Parks,
72 Recreation, and Culture to replace the park sign to reflect the new name.

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75 09/15/22

76 \\Fi01wpchc\comclerk\$\Committees\2022\September\FINANCE\Resolutions\22-1014 Clarence Cleopatra Johnsons
77 Park - no edits.docx