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From the Director, Milwaukee County Zoo (Zoo), requesting the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors support the Zoo’s efforts to protect elephants and rhinoceros in their natural range, condemn the poaching of rhinoceros and elephants and the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory, and support a ban on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory in the State of Wisconsin by recommending the adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, rhinoceros have horns and elephants have tusks (referred to as ivory), which may be used for traditional medicines, jewelry, and ornamental objects; and

WHEREAS, restrictions exist on international trade for all species of elephants and rhinoceros, under the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and

WHEREAS, all species of elephants and rhinoceros are assessed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Threatened or Endangered; and

WHEREAS, poaching of elephants and rhinoceros in pursuit of rhinoceros horn or elephant ivory is a major issue in international trade; and

WHEREAS, international trade of poached rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory has been documented to fund militias and terrorist groups in Africa; and

WHEREAS, bans on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory have been passed in California, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, a ban on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory in Wisconsin could help to reduce the market forces driving poaching of elephants and rhinoceros; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Zoo is home to species from seven continents, including African Elephants and Black Rhinoceros; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Zoo annually supports wildlife conservation organizations working to protect elephants and rhinoceros in their natural range; and

WHEREAS, over 14,000 Milwaukee County Zoo guests have signed a statement supporting a ban on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory in Wisconsin to date; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo Director asks that the County Board of Supervisors support

47 a ban on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory in the state of Wisconsin; now,
48 therefore,

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50 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors supports
51 the Milwaukee County Zoo in their efforts to protect elephants and rhinoceros in their
52 natural range; and

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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
55 condemns the poaching of rhinoceros and elephants and the sale of rhinoceros horn and
56 elephant ivory; and

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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
59 supports a ban on the sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory in the State of
60 Wisconsin.

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