

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCAL NOTE FORM

**DATE:** December 6, 2017

Original Fiscal Note ☒

Substitute Fiscal Note ☐

**SUBJECT:** Milwaukee Public Museum request to deaccession and transfer human remains of an African American male to Wisconsin Lutheran College.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Direct County Fiscal Impact                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Capital Expenditures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing Staff Time Required                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Capital Expenditures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Operating Expenditures<br>(If checked, check one of two boxes below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Capital Revenues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Absorbed Within Agency's Budget   | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Capital Revenues     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Absorbed Within Agency's Budget   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Operating Expenditures   | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of contingent funds       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Operating Revenues   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Operating Revenues   |  |

*Indicate below the dollar change from budget for any submission that is projected to result in increased/decreased expenditures or revenues in the current year.*

	Expenditure or Revenue Category	Current Year	Subsequent Year
Operating Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0
Capital Improvement Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0

## DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL EFFECT

In the space below, you must provide the following information. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- A. Briefly describe the nature of the action that is being requested or proposed, and the new or changed conditions that would occur if the request or proposal were adopted.
- B. State the direct costs, savings or anticipated revenues associated with the requested or proposed action in the current budget year and how those were calculated.<sup>1</sup> If annualized or subsequent year fiscal impacts are substantially different from current year impacts, then those shall be stated as well. In addition, cite any one-time costs associated with the action, the source of any new or additional revenues (e.g. State, Federal, user fee or private donation), the use of contingent funds, and/or the use of budgeted appropriations due to surpluses or change in purpose required to fund the requested action.
- C. Discuss the budgetary impacts associated with the proposed action in the current year. A statement that sufficient funds are budgeted should be justified with information regarding the amount of budgeted appropriations in the relevant account and whether that amount is sufficient to offset the cost of the requested action. If relevant, discussion of budgetary impacts in subsequent years also shall be discussed. Subsequent year fiscal impacts shall be noted for the entire period in which the requested or proposed action would be implemented when it is reasonable to do so (i.e. a five-year lease agreement shall specify the costs/savings for each of the five years in question). Otherwise, impacts associated with the existing and subsequent budget years should be cited.
- D. Describe any assumptions or interpretations that were utilized to provide the information on this form.
- A. Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) is requesting the deaccession and transfer of human remains of an African American male to Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC). This material is outside the scope of what MPM holds in its collections. MPM does not have a collection of recent human remains nor is this a research area that MPM would consider growing. WLC has a facility for the care of human remains and has protocols in place (Institutional Review Board) to insure that any research meet ethical standards (see attached WLC letter outlining that research and the care this individual). The MPM Board of Directors approved the deaccessioning of this item at their meeting on November 16, 2017.
- B. The resolution has no direct fiscal impact on the County. The deaccessioning of the item has a slight impact on the value of the collection, but does not require expenditure of any County funds. An expenditure of staff time is required to prepare the items for the move.
- C. The resolution has no direct budgetary impact on the County.
- D. MPM staff has reviewed all records and there are no restrictions of title that would prevent deaccessioning of this item.

Department/Prepared By Milwaukee Public Museum/Ellen J. Censky

Authorized Signature



Did DAS-Fiscal Staff Review? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did CBDP Review?<sup>2</sup> ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Required

<sup>1</sup> If it is assumed that there is no fiscal impact associated with the requested action, then an explanatory statement that justifies that conclusion shall be provided. If precise impacts cannot be calculated, then an estimate or range should be provided.

<sup>2</sup> Community Business Development Partners' review is required on all professional service and public work construction contracts.



November 28, 2017

Re. Deaccession and Transfer of skeletonized cadaver (A50276/17293)

Wisconsin Lutheran College  
Department of Anthropology  
8800 W. Bluemound Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Milwaukee Public Museum  
Dawn Scher Thomae  
Curator of Collections  
800 W. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Mrs. Scher Thomae,

My colleagues and I are thankful for the opportunity to follow-up with your office regarding the proposed deaccession and transfer of A50276/17293. Our interest in connecting with the community through research has become an important part of our work at the college. These remains provide us with a chance to add to the history of the county and the patients that it served. Their stories—often forgotten—must be told. Our hope is to add to what is known of the health profile of this individual and to better understand the nature of infectious diseases like syphilis.

Throughout its history, genetic research has contributed, in both positive and negative ways, to the lives of our local and national communities. Today, at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) students routinely address subjects of ethnicity, ethics in science, and public history as they apply these concerns to their own research in the field. Undergraduates, majoring in anthropology, nursing, and biology, for example, spend time looking at the life of Henrietta Lacks. As you know, Henrietta became famous after her death in 1951; a cellular culture of Mrs. Lacks', gathered by Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s, helped scientists to eradicate polio in the United States. The tragedy of this story is that Henrietta's cells were used without her consent. She died unaware of the lifesaving gift that she provided to millions of Americans. This story speaks to the importance of ethical practices in research, and the need to connect every aspect of science to the lives of those who it affects. With this study, we hope to achieve just that. By applying limited forensic and biochemical analysis we will complete the story behind these remains, adding to what is known of historic illnesses in the history of the county.

The history of a health condition can tell us a great deal about how humans have adapted to changing health risks. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, health sufferers did not receive the medical attention that they needed. This inequality in access to healthcare resulted in unnecessary suffering and the survival of diseases that could have been treated or eradicated. Being able to identify an effector strain (or

starting strain) of a bacterial community is an important practice in modern research, and it may help us to better understand the need for greater and equal access to preventative healthcare. Unfortunately, we cannot undo the suffering of nineteenth and early-twentieth century county patients. Instead, we are proposing research designed to look back at how human pathogens have behaved—it will allow us to provide today's scientific community with a deeper understanding of how evolving strains of human pathogens may be addressed before they become an unfortunate truth in our national history.

Archaeological and biological materials are often an excellent starting point in reconstructing the evolutionary history of a health condition. When this condition is inherited, or when it is relatable to a public health concern, it becomes important to pursue. The techniques that we will apply to these remains are minimally invasive (requiring less 2/10ths of a gram of material to analyze) however, their potential impact on understanding the history of this pathogen will be important in the eventual eradication of the disease. It may also be helpful in our understanding of how populations have reacted to blood-borne pathogenic exposures over time. The limited research that would be conducted will help us to understand how this illness was acquired, its retention, and the passing of the strain from one generation to the next. In considering these characteristics, we will be able to add to what is known of the microbial history of the disease.

It is my belief that Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) is an ideal site for the continued curation of A50276/17293. Not only do our facilities meet the standards required to protect these remains, but the religious mission and ethical goals that guide our faculty and staff provide this individual with a structured and safe environment to rest. The life and legacy of this historic donor will be honored and protected.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. I may be reached at 414.443.8521 or 414.885.8335 (cell).

Sincerely,



Ned Farley, Ph.D. RPA  
Department of Anthropology  
Wisconsin Lutheran College

