

From the Executive Director of Parks requesting authorization to make a capital funding commitment to the restoration of the Mitchell Park Domes contingent upon further approvals of a Lease Agreement, Development Agreement, and other necessary agreements between Milwaukee County and the Milwaukee Domes Alliance, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mitchell Park, located at 524 West Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215, was established as a Milwaukee County (the County) park in 1890, and in 1967, a horticultural conservatory consisting of three beehive-shaped, conoidal glass domes opened to the public, replacing a prior greenhouse structure constructed in 1898, which conservatory as subsequently expanded, is known as the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, or the Domes (the Domes); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture has operated and managed the Domes as a living plant museum since its 1967 opening, including caring for the over 1,800 plant species housed in the Domes; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Domes Alliance (MDA), formerly known as Friends of the Domes, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, privately-funded organization established in 1989, whose mission is to provide inspirational experiences at the Domes that restore connections to nature and community, and MDA has provided financial and programmatic support to the Domes since its inception, and operates at the Domes, pursuant to the Agreement between MDA and the County dated December 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Domes have experienced structural deterioration, which has threatened the County's ability to safely operate the Domes, and the County is unable to fully cover the cost to repair and reconstruct the Domes to ensure their continued operation into the future; and

WHEREAS, MDA has worked closely with the County to create a plan for the historic restoration and rehabilitation of the Domes and surrounding facilities, to be implemented and carried out by MDA (the Domes Reimagined Plan), as more fully described in File No. 24-723; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2024, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved 2025 Budget Amendment 06, codifying a \$30,000,000 commitment (the County Capital Contribution) to be paid over six years to MDA in support of the Domes Reimagined Plan, and authorized the County to negotiate a long-term Lease Agreement (the Lease Agreement) with MDA, which would transfer operational control of the Domes to MDA; and

47 WHEREAS, the County and MDA have diligently negotiated the Lease
48 Agreement and Development Agreement to govern the transfer of the Domes to MDA,
49 outline considerations for the County Capital Contribution, and all other aspects of the
50 Domes Reimagined Plan; and

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52 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of July 8, 2025,
53 recommended adoption of File No. 25-458 as amended (vote 6-1); now, therefore,

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55 BE IT RESOLVED, subject to annual appropriation, the Milwaukee County Board
56 of Supervisors (County Board) authorizes the Department of Parks, Recreation, and
57 Culture (DPRC), in coordination with the Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance
58 (OSBP), to include the Milwaukee County (the County) contribution in future County
59 capital budgets as installments, with the total contribution not-to-exceed \$30,000,000
60 (the County Capital Contribution), in support of the rehabilitation and improvement of
61 the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes); and

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63 BE IT **FURTHER** RESOLVED, that the approval and release of the County
64 Capital Contribution is contingent upon approvals by the County Board of **both the a**
65 Lease Agreement and Development Agreement between the County and the Milwaukee
66 Domes Alliance, **and further contingent upon compliance with the terms and**
67 **conditions set forth in those agreements;** and

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69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes DPRC, the
70 Department of Administrative Services, the Office of the Comptroller, OSBP, and the
71 Office of Corporation Counsel to execute any contracts and/or documents necessary to
72 complete the project, in support of the intent of this resolution.

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