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From the Director of Economic Development, Department of Administrative Services, requesting authorization to enter into negotiations with Friends of Villa Terrace, Inc., for the management and operation of the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum with the goal of reducing or eliminating the capital and operational support of the Charles Allis Art Museum and the Villa Terrace, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Charles Allis Art Museum (the Allis Museum), located at 1630 East Royall Place, in the City of Milwaukee (the City), is a Milwaukee County (the County)-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the home was completed in 1911 for Charles and Sarah Allis, and upon Mrs. Allis’s death in 1945, the building, the art collection, and a \$200,000 endowment fund, were passed in trust to the City; and

WHEREAS, the Charles Allis property, endowment, and collection were eventually transferred from the City to the County in 1979, with the approval of the probate court of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (Villa Terrace) is located at 2220 North Terrace Avenue in the City, and the building was originally the residence of Lloyd and Agnes Smith and was donated to the County in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Villa Terrace is zoned as a park, therefore Section 59.17(2)(b)(3), Wisconsin State Statutes, applies, which states that the “county board may continue to exercise the authority under s. 59.52(6) with regard to land that is zoned as a park...”; and

WHEREAS, although owned by the County, the museums have mainly been staffed and operated by nonprofits; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning of County ownership until 2012, the museums were part of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, which was governed by the private nonprofit entity, Milwaukee County War Memorial, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, from 2012 until present, the independent nonprofit, Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Museums, Inc. (CAVT), has governed and operated the two museums; and

WHEREAS, 2024 Adopted Budget Amendment 39 requested the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) explore opportunities to terminate the County’s ongoing operational and capital support of the Allis Museum; and

47 WHEREAS, in May 2024, Economic Development (ED), DAS, provided an
48 informational report (File No. 24-470) on the Allis Museum and Villa Terrace, with a
49 recommendation to pursue a Request for Information (RFI) to seek solutions for the two
50 museums that reduced or eliminated the County's operational and capital support of the
51 museums; and

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53 WHEREAS, an RFI was conducted, and four responses were received; and

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55 WHEREAS, based on the responses and the limited interest in the museums, it
56 was determined that a Request for Proposals was not warranted; and

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58 WHEREAS, the highest-scoring response was the Friends of Villa Terrace, Inc.,
59 (FOVT) proposal, based on keeping the Villa Terrace a public asset, providing an option
60 for the Allis Museum, and reducing capital and operating expense to the County; and

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62 WHEREAS, CAVT also responded to the RFI, but did not propose a viable
63 solution for the museums; and

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65 WHEREAS, CAVT has indicated an interest in continuing to manage and operate
66 the Allis Museum; and

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68 WHEREAS, discussions with CAVT are ongoing, and ED, DAS, will continue to
69 explore options for the Allis Museum and the collection that are in the best interest of
70 the community; and

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72 WHEREAS, ED, DAS, wishes to pursue negotiations with FOVT for Villa Terrace;
73 and

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75 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks and Culture, at its meeting of September 3,
76 2024, recommended adoption of File No. 24-767 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

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78 BE IT RESOLVED, Economic Development, Department of Administrative
79 Services, is hereby authorized to pursue negotiations with the Friends of Villa Terrace,
80 Inc., for the management and operation of the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum
81 (Villa Terrace), with the goal of reducing or eliminating the capital and operational
82 support that Milwaukee County provides to the Charles Allis Art Museum and Villa
83 Terrace; and

84
85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the results of the negotiation will be presented to
86 the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for approval.

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