

**FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

File No. 17-453

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A resolution by Supervisors Schmitt, Weishan, Jr., Haas, Dimitrijevic, Cullen, Sebring, and Alexander, opposing the disposition, compromise, or sale of any County Grounds Park land acreage, and supporting and encouraging the rezoning of remaining Sanctuary Woods parcels to the equivalent designation as parkland, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Section 59.17(2)(b)(3) of the Wisconsin State Statutes establishes that land zoned as a park cannot be sold or dispositioned without the approval of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board); and

WHEREAS, in February 2016, the County Board adopted Resolution File No. 16-121, which established the Milwaukee County’s (the County) policy to oppose the sale of any of the 43 land parcels under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) that were not zoned as parkland, and to request the appropriate municipalities to immediately rezone the parcels to parkland; and

WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Director, DPRC, submitted a report (File No. 17-223) containing an update of the rezoning status of parkland parcels in each municipality, including the City of Wauwatosa; and

WHEREAS, County Grounds Park, located on the County Grounds in Wauwatosa, was designated as formal County parkland in 2011; and

WHEREAS, County Grounds Park does not currently include approximately 43 acres of County-owned wooded area, commonly referred to as the “Sanctuary Woods,” which is directly adjacent to County Grounds Park; and

WHEREAS, in its current designation, the 43 acres of wooded area is zoned as “Special Medical District” or SP-MED, and does not require County Board review/approval to be sold/disposed by the Milwaukee County Executive; and

WHEREAS, multiple iterations of the City of Wauwatosa’s Life Sciences District Master Plan concept have proposed various alternatives to develop the County Grounds, which could include acquiring parkland from County Grounds Park, among other options; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017, the City of Wauwatosa placed the Life Sciences District Master Plan Concept on hold until the following County-related items are completed:

- A zoning proposal from the County for County-owned land within the Life Sciences District Master Plan area

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- A report from the County on the impediments to development at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Innovation Campus and Research Park
- An action by the County to preserve the natural areas commonly known as the County Grounds Park and Sanctuary Woods in perpetuity

; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Division, Department of Administrative Services, requested the City of Wauwatosa to rezone the 43-acre area known as Sanctuary Woods to expand the boundaries of County Grounds Park so that those parcels would be subject to the same statutory protections granted to County parkland; and

WHEREAS, the priority of the County is to retain and maintain its parkland for the public, and to protect and preserve critical natural areas, including the Sanctuary Woods; and

WHEREAS, at the County Board meeting of May 25, 2017, File No. 17-453 was considered under suspension of the rules and adopted (vote 15-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) hereby opposes any sale, land swap, rezoning/re-designation, or reduction to the acreage of County Grounds Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Milwaukee County supports and requests the City of Wauwatosa to rezone the remaining parcels of the approximate 43 acres of wooded area under taxkeys #372999917 and #373999907, known as Sanctuary Woods, to parkland or the local equivalent designation, to expand the boundaries of County Grounds Park and be subject to the protections granted under Section 59.17(2)(b)(3) of Wisconsin State Statutes that prohibit the sale of parkland without County Board approval.