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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Requesting the ONE Milwaukee Taskforce explore possible collaboration and resource  
7 sharing between Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public  
8 Schools on operations and maintenance relating to parks and recreation  
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11 WHEREAS, in the 2017 study produced by the Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF),  
12 then known as the Public Policy Forum, titled “Joining Forces: Exploring Service  
13 Sharing Opportunities for Milwaukee Public Schools”, the Wisconsin Policy Forum  
14 suggested potential opportunities for the Milwaukee Public School District to collaborate  
15 in the realm of parks and recreation with the City of Milwaukee relating to master  
16 planning, with the City and County relating to sharing data, and with the County relating  
17 to mowing and snow removal, forestry, sharing equipment, playground inspection and  
18 repair, and other specialized services; and  
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20 WHEREAS, in the aforementioned report, the WPF suggested the Milwaukee  
21 Public Schools, City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County begin collaboration of  
22 service-sharing by doing the following:  
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- 24 • “Align internal and cross-jurisdictional practices in data collection, storage, and
- 25 sharing”
- 26 • “Align the timing of major initiatives, investments, and planning processes”
- 27 • “Start with small-scale, low-risk, and low-cost service sharing arrangements”
- 28 • “Include service sharing as part of a joint legislative agenda”
- 29 • “Establish a formal joint advisory body devoted to shared services between MPS,
- 30 the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County”

31  
32 ; and  
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34 WHEREAS, in File No. 20-137, Milwaukee County co-created the ONE  
35 Milwaukee Taskforce with the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public School District  
36 “for the purpose of making practical recommendations to share costs and resources,  
37 collaborate, and coordinate on potential capital infrastructure and operational needs to  
38 better serve the people of Milwaukee”; and  
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40 WHEREAS, in the October 2021 WPF study, “Sinking Treasure: A look at the  
41 Milwaukee County Parks’ troubled finances and potential solutions,” the WPF noted

42 how in inflation-adjusted terms, the County’s parks have experienced significant cuts  
43 financially and staff-wise while becoming further dependent on earned revenue rather  
44 than property tax levy:

45

- 46 • Operations Expenditures in 2019 Dollars
  - 47 ○ 1989: ~\$75 million
  - 48 ○ 2019: >\$40 million
- 49 • Number of Full-time Equivalent Positions
  - 50 ○ 1989: 1072.7
  - 51 ○ 2019: 469
- 52 • Parks Department Revenue Mix
  - 53 ○ 1989: 74.4 percent property tax levy, 25.6 percent other revenue
  - 54 ○ 2019: 43.4 percent property tax levy, 56.7 percent other revenue

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56 (File No. 21-973); and

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58 WHEREAS, in File No. 20-639, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture  
59 noted, “Milwaukee County Parks is at cross-roads and the funding mechanisms to  
60 sustain our parks are broken. This time of global pandemic has magnified and  
61 accelerated the reality that the fiscal model that has funded Parks for years is failing,  
62 that it is not sustainable, and that new, long-term funding solutions are needed.”; and

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64 WHEREAS, in “Sinking Treasure” the WPF repeated its suggestion to collaborate  
65 with the Milwaukee Public School and suburban school districts “to enhance  
66 programming and support maintenance of recreational facilities”; and

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68 WHEREAS, in Fall 2021 the Milwaukee Public Schools’ Milwaukee Recreation  
69 became one of 1.9 percent of parks and recreation agencies, and only one of three in  
70 Wisconsin, to earn accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association’s  
71 (NRPA’s) Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA); and

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73 WHEREAS, in February 2022, Milwaukee County adopted File No. 22-132, an  
74 updated Milwaukee County Park and Open Space Plan, which is a long-range planning  
75 document prepared by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture and the  
76 Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to guide decision  
77 making and fulfill the County’s State and Federal grant eligibility; and

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79 WHEREAS, as part of the adopted Milwaukee County Park and Open Space  
80 Plan, it is recommended that “the County should consider additional opportunities to  
81 partner with nonprofit organizations as well as municipal government agencies when  
82 possible to implement improvement projects” and there exists a “shared responsibility

83 between the County and municipal governments for providing needed neighborhood  
84 parks,” which can be facilitated via the work of the ONE Milwaukee Taskforce; and  
85

86 WHEREAS, in the interest of serving Milwaukee citizens with increasingly scarce  
87 resources due to a State-imposed structural deficit whereby costs to continue services  
88 rise faster than revenues; and  
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90 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of  
91 May 24, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-485 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,  
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93 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby requests the ONE Milwaukee  
94 Taskforce spearhead the beginning of collaboration efforts between Milwaukee County,  
95 the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public Schools relating to sharing resources for  
96 parks and recreation maintenance and operations; and  
97

98 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ONE Milwaukee Taskforce shall pursue the  
99 development of a plan to bring certain County, City, and MPS resources into alignment  
100 so that the entities can:  
101

- 102 • Easily share constituent data to better address requests for service and  
103 information
- 104 • Collaborate on a shared data collection and management program to quickly  
105 access and deploy resources
- 106 • Create easily navigable websites for constituents to access the information they  
107 need, discover which entity is responsible for each service request, and submit  
108 requests for service or maintenance that can be routed to the correct entity  
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110 ; and  
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112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall provide a report detailing  
113 progress on developing the plan, or the completed plan, to the County Board of  
114 Supervisors, City Common Council, and MPS Board of School Directors by September  
115 2022; and  
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117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff are  
118 authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the ONE  
119 Milwaukee Taskforce, the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Public Schools, and  
120 support initiatives which achieve the criteria outlined in this resolution.  
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123 05/24/22

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