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3
4 **AN ENGROSSED 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
- 25 • “Align internal and cross-jurisdictional practices in data collection, storage, and 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”

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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

78

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, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC), which**
87 **includes the mayor, village president or administrator from each of the 19**
88 **municipalities inside Milwaukee County, meets to share best practices in delivery**
89 **of public services, to discuss ways in which to save tax money and enhance**
90 **services through cooperative efforts, and to discuss and advocate for change in**
91 **state and federal law that are of common interest to ICC members; and**

92
93 WHEREAS, in the interest of serving Milwaukee citizens with increasingly scarce
94 resources due to a State-imposed structural deficit whereby costs to continue services
95 rise faster than revenues; and

96
97 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of
98 May 24, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-485 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,
99

100 BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County hereby requests the ONE Milwaukee
101 Taskforce spearhead the beginning of collaboration efforts between Milwaukee County,
102 the City of Milwaukee, **and** Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), **the Intergovernmental**
103 **Cooperation Council (ICC), and ICC individual members** relating to sharing
104 resources for parks and recreation maintenance and operations; and

105
106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the ONE Milwaukee Taskforce shall pursue the
107 development of a plan to bring certain County, City, **and** MPS, **the ICC, and ICC**
108 **individual members** resources into alignment so that the entities can:

- 109
- 110 • Easily share constituent data to better address requests for service and
111 information
 - 112 • Collaborate on a shared data collection and management program to quickly
113 access and deploy resources
 - 114 • Create easily navigable websites for constituents to access the information they
115 need, discover which entity is responsible for each service request, and submit
116 requests for service or maintenance that can be routed to the correct entity

117
118 ; and

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120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall provide a report detailing
121 progress on developing the plan, or the completed plan, to the County Board of
122 Supervisors, City Common Council, **and** MPS Board of School Directors, **the ICC, and**
123 **ICC individual members** by September 2022; and

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125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Office of Government Affairs staff are
126 authorized and requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the ONE
127 Milwaukee Taskforce, the City of Milwaukee, ~~and~~ **MPS, the ICC, and ICC individual**
128 **members** and support initiatives which achieve the criteria outlined in this resolution.
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