

A RESOLUTION

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5 Authorize the use of \$500,000 from the Appropriation for Contingencies, Org. 1800-1945,
6 for additional funding related to capital project WP49001 – Mitchell Park Domes to install
7 a protective netting system at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes)
8 and long-term planning options upon approval by the Milwaukee County Board of
9 Supervisors

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11 WHEREAS, adopted resolution(s) 15-601/626 established capital project
12 WP49001 – Mitchell Park Domes from the County’s Debt Service Reserve Fund for a
13 protective safety system in the amount of \$400,000 and funding for long term planning
14 options in the amount of \$100,000 for a total of \$500,000; and
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16 WHEREAS, as was presented to the County Board in December 2013, unforeseen
17 spalling of concrete that occurred in the Tropical Dome in late August 2013 resulted in
18 that dome being closed followed by a stabilization project for all three domes (Show, Arid,
19 Tropical) for a period of five months; and
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21 WHEREAS, while the structure is still safe and secure, and despite having taken
22 proactive steps to address falling debris in 2013/2014, small pieces of spalling concrete
23 continue to fall in all three domes; and
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25 WHEREAS, as a precaution, the county temporarily closed The Domes in
26 February 2016 until a protective netting system can be installed; and
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28 WHEREAS, upon additional refinement of capital project WP49001 – Mitchell Park
29 Domes scope and cost, Parks and the Department of Administrative Services-
30 Architecture & Engineering (A/E) have determined that additional estimated funding of
31 \$500,000 is required for the protective netting system and for long-term planning options;
32 and
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34 WHEREAS, the assumptions used to calculate the \$500,000 in additional costs for
35 the protective netting system and long-term planning options are preliminary, and the
36 protective netting costs are highly variable due to the unique design and construction
37 methods of each of the domes; and
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39 WHEREAS, the Arid Dome is a light-filled landscape with sculptural forms of
40 succulents and the Tropical Dome is a lush environment, complete with a waterfall, and
41 both domes will require specialized equipment for protective netting installation due to
42 plant and tree obstructions; and
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44 WHEREAS, the Show Dome attracts visitors, hosts changing themed floral shows,
45 and generates additional revenue through weddings, special events, and other activities;

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48 WHEREAS, the Show Dome presents the least obstructed areas requiring less
49 specialized work and equipment to address protective netting; and

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51 WHEREAS, in light of these variables, it may be more prudent to keep the Arid
52 and Tropical domes closed until the county first addresses the Show Dome protective
53 netting installation to further understand the actual cost(s), with a possible requirement to
54 request an additional appropriation fund transfer for protective net installation at the Arid
55 and Tropical domes; and

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57 WHEREAS, by proceeding with the Show Dome protective netting installation first,
58 A/E and Parks will have refined installation costs and be able to provide more accurate
59 estimates for the Arid and Tropical domes; and

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61 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is losing revenue from these closures, it is
62 imperative that installation of these protective netting systems be installed as soon as
63 possible; and

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65 WHEREAS, the Domes are an important cultural asset and iconic part of
66 Milwaukee's history, and the County wishes to engage with the community throughout
67 the long-term planning process for the future of the Domes; now, therefore,

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69 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorizes
70 allocation of \$500,000 for the additional anticipated costs and work needed for long-term
71 planning options and installation of a protective netting system at The Domes; and

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73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will waive requirements of any
74 Milwaukee County Ordinances, including MCO 44.01, 44.14, and 56.30(5)(a), that may
75 delay immediate protective netting installation; and

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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon Board approval of this resolution, the
78 Director of Administrative Services, working in conjunction with the Comptroller, is
79 authorized to process an appropriation transfer from the Appropriation for Contingencies,
80 Org. 1800-1945, of \$500,000 for the immediate installation of protective netting and long-
81 term planning options at The Domes.