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A resolution by Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Sartori, Nicholson, Haas, Taylor (9), Wasserman, and Sebring directing and authorizing the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to enter into a long-term lease agreement with the Victory Garden Initiative, Inc., for fruit tree orchards as part of the Sowing, Empowering, and Eliminating Deserts of food or SEED Initiative, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 15-351, a resolution creating the Sowing, Empowering, and Eliminating Deserts of food, or SEED Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the SEED Initiative is a multi-targeted plan to address the issue of food deserts and food insecurity within Milwaukee County (the County) neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, as part of the SEED Initiative, the County intended to establish a long-term partnership with a local company for the purpose of planting and harvesting fruit tree orchards within County parkland; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, on November 15, 2015, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture entered into a 10-year Agricultural Lease Agreement (Agreement) with Growing Power, Inc., to allow for the planting and harvesting of fruit tree orchards; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the County received information that Growing Power, Inc., had dissolved; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 16 of the Agreement, the County has the right to terminate the lease if Growing Power, Inc., (the Lessee) ceases to do business as a going concern; and

WHEREAS, the Victory Garden Initiative, Inc., is a local company that focuses on helping communities grow their own food, and has expressed interest in continuing the fruit tree orchards established by the Lessee as part of the SEED Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of January 23, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-151 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Agricultural Lease Agreement with Growing Power, Inc., hereby terminates the lease; and

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes and directs the  
48 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) to work with Victory Garden  
49 Initiative, Inc., to assess the current state and future needs of the fruit tree orchards;  
50 and

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the assessment period, which will be no  
52 longer than one year, DPRC is authorized and directed, in consultation with the Office of  
53 Corporation Counsel (OCC), to execute a new long-term Agricultural Lease Agreement  
54 with Victory Garden Initiative, Inc., to continue the work of growing and harvesting fruit  
55 trees for the Sowing, Empowering, and Eliminating Deserts of food, or SEED Initiative;  
56 and

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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the new lease with Victory Garden Initiative, Inc.,  
59 may be executed without further County Board approval if it contains the same or  
60 similar terms and conditions, as determined by the OCC, as the previous lease with  
61 Growing Power, Inc., and

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63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DPRC shall provide an update on the status  
64 of this issue to the County Board by the May 2018 cycle.

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