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A resolution by Supervisors Ortiz-Velez, Martin, Nicholson, Shea, and Logsdon, requesting the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture issue a Request for Proposals related to the lease of a greenhouse at Mitchell Park to a private entity for the purpose of propagating hemp clones and to report back to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors the results of the process, including recommendations for moving forward, by recommending adoption of the following:

AN AMENDED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there are seven greenhouses at Mitchell Park, constructed in 2014, which are state-of-the-art, sustainable facilities, totaling over 60,000 square feet, with precise temperature, shade, and lighting controls, as well as systems for capturing and saving snow and rainwater; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017, the State of Wisconsin (the State) passed Act 100, and legalized the growing and processing of industrial hemp through the Industrial Hemp Pilot Research Program; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) adopted File No. 18-690 on September 20, 2018, requesting a report on possible revenue-generating uses for the Mitchell Park greenhouses, including the potential to grow and produce industrial hemp, hemp seeds, and cannabinoid oil, or the construction of a Grow Education Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, hemp cloning is the process by which new hemp plants are cultivated by taking a cut from the stem or tap-root of a mother hemp plant, which can then grow independently; and

WHEREAS, cloning is an efficient method of producing female hemp plants, which are advantageous because the flower produces significantly higher quantities of cannabinoids than the male flower; and

WHEREAS, cloning produces high-quality, consistent plants that can be grown in a sustainable method, and offers options for organic certification; and

WHEREAS, producing clones for instate farmers reduces the likelihood that harmful environmental factors, including disease and parasites, from outside of the State enter Wisconsin’s agricultural spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Mitchell Park greenhouses provide an environment suitable to growing hemp clones; and

45 WHEREAS, it is well documented that the Department of Parks, Recreation, and
46 Culture suffers from severe underfunding and millions of dollars in deferred
47 maintenance, including at Mitchell Park, and the Mitchell Park Horticultural
48 Conservatory (the Domes); and

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50 WHEREAS, a possible revenue source to offset the operation and capital costs
51 at Mitchell Park could be to lease one or more of the greenhouses to a private entity for
52 the purposes of propagating and selling hemp clones; and

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54 WHEREAS, the County would benefit from exploring a private-public partnership
55 related to the resurgence of the hemp industry; and

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57 WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of
58 October 29, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-718 (vote 4-1); now, therefore,

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60 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
61 requests that the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC), issue
62 a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to the lease of a greenhouse, **for a minimum of**
63 **two years**, which could include the possibility of leasing any necessary ancillary spaces
64 **and options for maximizing revenue**, at Mitchell Park, to a private entity for the
65 purpose of propagating hemp clones; and

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67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, DPRC, shall report back to the
68 County Board with the results of the RFP, including their recommendations for moving
69 forward.

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kae

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10/29/19

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