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A resolution by Supervisor Weishan, Jr., proposing creative solutions to help fund the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture and requesting the Wisconsin State Legislature allow Milwaukee County to raise revenues using alternative funding sources, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) has faced annual budget contractions; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County (the County) parks system faces millions of dollars in deferred maintenance because of infrastructure and facility needs, including the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Domes, aquatic facilities, and paved assets; and

WHEREAS, Coronavirus disease continues to cause detrimental effects to DPRC revenue because of the closure of golf courses, disc golf courses, community centers, aquatic facilities, marinas, and boat launches, cancellation of events and facility rentals, reduction in concession sales, amongst other revenue deficits; and

WHEREAS, attempts to petition the State of Wisconsin (the State) Legislature to allow the County to assess a dedicated sales tax have been unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, creative solutions will be necessary to help rectify the current year’s deficit, and to address the build-up of deferred maintenance throughout the parks system; and

WHEREAS, it is proposed that the following solutions be enacted to raise dedicated funding for DPRC and the parks system:

- A County-wide 50/50 raffle, with half the money raised going to the winner, and the other half going to County parks.
- A new scratch-off lottery ticket with all the proceeds, after administrative costs, going to County parks.
- A special State license plate that residents can purchase to show their support for County parks.

; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature will need to make changes to Wisconsin State Statutes in order to allow the County to implement these funding options; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of June 11, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-362 (vote 4-0); now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) supports the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture (DPRC) in its mission to steward a thriving park system that positively impacts every visitor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board proposes the following solutions to raise revenue dedicated to the DPRC:

- A Milwaukee County-wide (the County) 50/50 raffle, with half the money raised going to the winner, and the other half going to County parks.
- A new scratch-off lottery ticket with all the proceeds, after administrative costs, going to County parks.
- A special State of Wisconsin (the State) license plate that residents can purchase to show their support for County parks.

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State Legislature is requested to take the necessary steps to allow the County to raise revenues in the above manners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Office of Government Affairs is requested to communicate the contents of this resolution to the State Legislature and the State Governor.

kae
06/11/20
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