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4 **AN ENGROSSED RESOLUTION**

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6 Authorizing and directing the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to change
7 the name of Wahl Park to Harriet Tubman Park and processing a fund transfer request
8 in the amount of \$9,750 from Org. Unit 1800-1945 – Appropriation for Contingencies to
9 an appropriate account within Org. Unit 9000 – Department of Parks, Recreation, and
10 Culture
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13 WHEREAS, Wahl Park is located in the City of Milwaukee, near West Hampton
14 Avenue and North 47th Street; and
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16 WHEREAS, Wahl Park contains many amenities for the community including a
17 wading pool, basketball court, pavilion, children’s play area, and several acres of green
18 space; and
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20 WHEREAS, Wahl Park was created in 1956 and named after Christian Wahl, the
21 first President of the Board of City Park Commissioners and architect of the Milwaukee
22 County Parks System, along with Charles Whitnall; and
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24 WHEREAS, the area surrounding Wahl Park is primarily residential and its many
25 amenities provide valuable recreation opportunities to the nearby neighborhoods; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Wahl Park neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods are
28 primarily home to communities of color; and
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30 WHEREAS, rethinking the conventions of naming monuments, statues,
31 landmarks, and parks is important as national conversation has examined the reasoning
32 behind a chosen name; and
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34 WHEREAS, the naming of a monument reflects who and what we think is
35 important, as well as our values as a community; and
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37 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to ensuring that its monuments,
38 including its parks, are named after those individuals or communities that reflect our
39 County’s dedication to racial equity; and

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WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross, later adopting the name Harriet after her mother, Harriet Ross, and Tubman from her first husband, John Tubman; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was one of the most successful conductors of the Underground Railroad, a network of secret routes and houses used to help enslaved peoples escape into free states and Canada, and is credited with helping over 13 missions and assisting in the freedom of over 70 people; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was also instrumental throughout the Civil War, vehemently opposed to the Confederacy, and was the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, throughout her life, Harriet Tubman was a noble activist, later committing to the cause of women’s suffrage and equality; and

WHEREAS, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Underground Railroad had secret routes and houses in Milwaukee to help individuals escape to other northern states and Canada; and

WHEREAS, several locations in Milwaukee were monumental during the years when the Underground Railroad was active, including a station known as Deacon Samuel Brown’s farm on North 16th Street and West Fond du Lac Avenue near the Milwaukee County Transit System administration building; and

WHEREAS, neither Milwaukee, nor Wisconsin, would be involved in the vital work of the Underground Railroad without the contributions of Harriet Tubman; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman is reflective of the community in which Wahl Park resides and deserving of this recognition; and

WHEREAS, because the Wahl Park and surrounding neighborhoods are home to communities of color, its park should reflect its own residents; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of September 11, 2020, recommended adoption of File No. 20-548 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture to change the name of Wahl Park to Harriet Tubman Park; and

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Office of the Comptroller is hereby
85 authorized to process a fund transfer in the amount of \$9,750 from Org. Unit 1800-1945
86 – Appropriation for Contingencies to an appropriate account within Org. Unit 9000 –
87 Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture for the purchase and installation of a new
88 park sign.

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