

Retroactive Approval to Apply for, and Accept the U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) funds for the Fiscal Year 2021 for the Milwaukee County Zoo, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Zoo (the Zoo) is one of the top four attractions and largest cultural institution in the State of Wisconsin (the State); and

WHEREAS, the Zoo has a full-time staff of 152 employees, and an additional 200 seasonal and hourly employees during peak season; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo grounds lie on a 192-acre wooded campus, and is home to 2,213 specimens of 330 species; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo is open every day except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo was open for regular operations in 2020 through March 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, the Zoo was forced to close to the public due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the State, and local health department regulations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) created the Shuttered Venues Operator Grant (SVOG) to provide emergency financial assistance for eligible venues affected by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, funding is awarded to eligible venues based on revenue loss as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo is an eligible venue for the SVOG opportunity, and incurred significant revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Zoo applied for the SVOG on April 8, 2021, and the SBA awarded the SVOG to the Zoo on August 8, 2021, without a local matching requirement; and

WHEREAS, the County will be the fiscal agent for the grant; and

WHEREAS, the SVOG of more than \$6.8 million will help the Zoo meet its mission to continue to inspire public understanding, support, and participation in global conservation of animal species and their environment, by creating a unifying bond between visitors and the living earth, and will provide an environment for personal renewal and enjoyment for guests; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of September 17, 2021, recommended adoption of File No. 21-756 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Milwaukee County Zoo (the Zoo) to accept the 2021 Shuttered Venues Operator Grant (SVOG) funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (OPSB), Department of Administrative Services (DAS), in cooperation with the Office of the Comptroller, (Comptroller) is hereby authorized to process an appropriation transfer to recognize \$6,849,482.40 in grant funds, and establish expenditure authority of \$6,849,482.40 to carry out the grant to benefit the Zoo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director, OPSB-DAS, and the Comptroller are authorized to process an additional appropriation transfer to recognize any additional grant funds that may be received from the United States Small Business Administration SVOG, and establish expenditure authority to carry out the grant to benefit the Zoo.

srb
09/17/2021

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