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4 **A RESOLUTION**

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6 Requesting the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture issue a Request
7 for Proposals related to the lease of a greenhouse at Mitchell Park to a private entity for
8 the purpose of propagating hemp clones and to report back to the Milwaukee County
9 Board of Supervisors the results of the process, including recommendations for moving
10 forward

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

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

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

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

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

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

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38 WHEREAS, producing clones for in-state farmers reduces the likelihood that
39 harmful environmental factors, including disease and parasites, from outside of the state
40 enter Wisconsin's agricultural spaces; and

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

44 WHEREAS, it is well documented that the Milwaukee County Parks system
45 suffers from severe underfunding and millions of dollars in deferred maintenance,
46 including at Mitchell Park and the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Domes; and
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48 WHEREAS, a possible revenue source to offset the operation and capital costs
49 at Mitchell Park could be to lease one or more of the greenhouses to a private entity for
50 the purposes of propagating and selling hemp clones; and
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52 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County would benefit from exploring a private-public
53 partnership related to the resurgence of the hemp industry; now, therefore,
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55 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors requests
56 that the Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, and Culture issues a Request for
57 Proposals (RFP) related to the lease of a greenhouse, which could include the
58 possibility of leasing any necessary ancillary spaces, at Mitchell Park to a private entity
59 for the purpose of propagating hemp clones; and
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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director, Department of Parks,
62 Recreation, and Culture shall report back to the Milwaukee County Board of
63 Supervisors with the results of the RFP, including their recommendations for moving
64 forward.