

**FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

1 By Supervisors Schmitt, Weishan, Jr., Haas, Dimitrijevic, Cullen, and Sebring

2  
3 File No. 17-

4  
5 **A RESOLUTION**

6  
7 Opposing the disposition, compromise, or sale of any County Grounds Park land  
8 acreage and supporting and encouraging the rezoning of remaining Sanctuary Woods  
9 parcels to the equivalent designation as parkland

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12 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes 59.17(2)(b)(3) establishes that land zoned as a  
13 park cannot be sold or dispositioned without the approval of the Milwaukee County  
14 Board of Supervisors; and

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16 WHEREAS, in February 2016, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
17 adopted Resolution File No. 16-121, which established the County's policy to oppose  
18 the sale of any of the 43 land parcels under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department that  
19 were not zoned as parkland, and to request the appropriate municipalities to  
20 immediately rezone the parcels to parkland; and

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22 WHEREAS, in March 2017, the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation,  
23 and Culture submitted a report (File No. 17-223) containing an update of the rezoning  
24 status of parkland parcels in each municipality, including the City of Wauwatosa; and

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26 WHEREAS, County Grounds Park, located on the County Grounds in  
27 Wauwatosa, was designated as formal County parkland in 2011; and

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29 WHEREAS, County Grounds Park does not currently include approximately 43  
30 acres of County-owned wooded area, commonly referred to as the "Sanctuary Woods,"  
31 which is directly adjacent to County Grounds Park; and

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33 WHEREAS, in its current designation, the 43 acres of wooded area is zoned as  
34 "Special Medical District" or SP-MED, and does not require County Board  
35 review/approval to be sold/disposed by the County Executive; and

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37 WHEREAS, multiple iterations of the City of Wauwatosa's Life Sciences District  
38 Master Plan concept have proposed various alternatives to develop the County  
39 Grounds, which could include acquiring parkland from County Grounds Park, among  
40 other options; and

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42 WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017, the City of Wauwatosa placed the Life Sciences  
43 District Master Plan Concept on hold until the following County-related items are  
44 completed:

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- 45 • A zoning proposal from Milwaukee County for County-owned land within
- 46 the Life Sciences District Master Plan area
- 47 • A report from Milwaukee County on the impediments to development at
- 48 the UWM Innovation Campus and Research Park
- 49 • An action by Milwaukee County to preserve the natural areas commonly
- 50 known as the County Grounds Park and Sanctuary Woods in perpetuity

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52 ; and

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54 WHEREAS, the Department of Administrative Services-Economic and  
55 Community Development Division requested the City of Wauwatosa to rezone the 43-  
56 acre area known as Sanctuary Woods to expand the boundaries of County Grounds  
57 Park so that those parcels would be subject to the same statutory protections granted to  
58 County parkland; and

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60 WHEREAS, the priority of the County is to retain and maintain its parkland for the  
61 public, and to protect and preserve critical natural areas, including the Sanctuary  
62 Woods; now, therefore,

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64 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors hereby  
65 opposes any sale, land swap, rezoning/re-designation, or reduction to the acreage of  
66 County Grounds Park; and

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Milwaukee County supports and requests the  
69 City of Wauwatosa to rezone the remaining parcels of the approximate 43 acres of  
70 wooded area under taxkeys #372999917 and #373999907, known as Sanctuary  
71 Woods, to parkland or the local equivalent designation, to expand the boundaries of  
72 County Grounds Park and be subject to the protections granted under Wisconsin  
73 Statutes Section 59.17(2)(b)(3) that prohibit the sale of parkland without County Board  
74 approval.