

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

c/o City of Glendale, 5909 North Milwaukee River Parkway, Glendale, WI 53209

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT'S KINNICKINNIC RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN JACKSON PARK IN THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) includes the mayor, village president or administrator from each of the 19 municipalities inside Milwaukee County. The ICC meets to share best practices in delivery of public services, to discuss ways in which to save tax money and enhance services through cooperative efforts, and to discuss and advocate for change in state and federal law that are of common interest to ICC members. The ICC was created pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 66.0301; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) for the past decade has been engaged in the planning and construction of flood management projects designed to reduce the risk of flood related damage to more than 660 structures that are currently located in the Kinnickinnic (KK) River watershed high hazard floodplain; and

WHEREAS, the KK River has been in decline for several decades and has been named as one of "America's Ten Most Endangered Rivers" by American Rivers in 2007 due to the presence of contaminated sediments and severely degraded habitat; and

WHEREAS, MMSD has been partnering with Milwaukee County, City of Milwaukee, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, KK River Watershed Advisory Committee, and others since 2016 to design and construct the KK River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park which is located on Milwaukee's South Side east of S. 43rd Street and Cleveland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, an extensive stakeholder and public planning process over the past few years has solicited input from dozens of organizations and residents to develop the design of the project in Jackson Park; and

WHEREAS, the KK River flows through the northern section of Jackson Park which as part of the proposed flood management project design would temporarily store flood waters in a section of the park once every five years on average; and

Whereas, MMSD is committed to funding the project with the goal of reducing flood risk, increasing public safety, and improving riparian and aquatic habitat; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project in Jackson Park project includes many ideas that, if approved, promise to revitalize and enhance Jackson Park, such as removing concrete lining and naturalizing 2,100 feet of river channel including daylighting a 700-foot section of the KK River that is currently buried in a concrete box culvert, removing contaminated sediments from the lagoon, restoring the lagoon edge and island, reconstructing the KK River Parkway Road, constructing a new recreational bicycle trail connecting with the Oak Leaf Trail System, renovating the Boathouse, and increasing the size of park by five-acres; and

WHEREAS, per Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources floodplain permitting requirements, the additional flood storage in Jackson Park must be completed before MMSD can finish the section of the KK Flood Management Project downstream of Jackson Park between S.6th and S.16th Street; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION COUNCIL, that the ICC supports and approves of the partnership between the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and Milwaukee County to construct the Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park as part of the overall Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Plan designed to reduce the risk of flooding to more than 660 structures currently in the high hazard flood plain; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed design of the Kinnickinnic River Flood Management Project in Jackson Park will be the result of continued public outreach from a three-year public planning process for the watershed involving dozens of stakeholders, community organizations, and area residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution, upon adoption by the ICC be submitted as part of the record to the MMSD Commission, Milwaukee County Board, and Milwaukee County Executive.

Adopted February 10, 2020

Bryan Kennedy
Chairman