



Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 01301      **Version:** 1      **Name:** Expressing support of the commitment of \$500,000 in general obligation debt for the new polar bear exhibit and Children's Zoo at the Henry Vilas Zoo, pending final approval in the 2006 Capital Budget.

**Type:** Resolution      **Status:** Passed

**File created:** 5/18/2005      **In control:** BOARD OF ESTIMATES (ended 4/2017)

**On agenda:** 1/17/2006      **Final action:** 1/17/2006

**Enactment date:** 1/18/2006      **Enactment #:** RES-06-00064

**Title:** Expressing support of the commitment of \$500,000 in general obligation debt for the new polar bear exhibit and Children's Zoo at the Henry Vilas Zoo, pending final approval in the 2006 Capital Budget.

**Sponsors:** David J. Cieslewicz, Isadore Knox Jr.

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/17/2006	1	COMMON COUNCIL	Adopt	Pass
1/9/2006	1	BOARD OF ESTIMATES (ended 4/2017)	RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER	Pass
12/21/2005	1	CITY-COUNTY LIAISON COMMITTEE	Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval	Pass
12/12/2005	1	CITY-COUNTY LIAISON COMMITTEE	Refer	Pass
5/17/2005	1	Council Office	Refer	
5/17/2005	1	Finance Dept/Approval Group	Approved Fiscal Note By The Comptroller's Office	
5/17/2005	1	Council Office	Referred for Introduction	
5/17/2005	1	COMMON COUNCIL	Refer	
5/17/2005	1	COMMON COUNCIL	Refer	

**Fiscal Note**

Adoption of this resolution would result in the inclusion of \$500,000 in general obligation debt in the 2006 Capital Budget for purposes of expanding the Henry Vilas Zoo. Debt service associated with this borrowing is estimated at \$70,000 in the first year of payment, gradually declining to approximately \$52,000 in the tenth and final year. There is no anticipated impact upon the tax levy in 2005. A total of \$150,000 for zoo improvements in 2006 is contained in the current Capital Improvement Program.

**Title**

Expressing support of the commitment of \$500,000 in general obligation debt for the new polar bear exhibit and Children's Zoo at the Henry Vilas Zoo, pending final approval in the 2006 Capital Budget.

**Body**

Whereas, the Henry Vilas Zoo was created in 1911, when five white-tailed deer were kept at the site, and has always been free to the public as stipulated by the Vilas family when they donated the land; and

Whereas, a new, \$9 million polar bear exhibit called the "Arctic Passage" is planned for completion in 2007 that will create a natural habitat for polar bears, seals, caribou, snow owls, and cranes; create an underwater viewing area for visitors; and feature a weather station to teach visitors about global weather patterns: and

Whereas, a new, \$6 million Children's Zoo is also planned that will include year-round animal exhibits, a walk-through barn, a Swiss Family Robinson Tree House, an outdoor learning amphitheater, a train, and a "Conservation Carousel;" and

Whereas, under the terms of a 1983 agreement, the City currently pays 20% of annual operating costs and voluntarily shares in capital costs; and

Whereas, the Mayor has pledged \$500,000 in City general obligation borrowing toward the two new exhibits at the zoo, resulting in annual debt service costs to City taxpayers of approximately \$70,000; and

Whereas, the 1983 Agreement on the Operation of the Henry Vilas Zoo states that "it has been determined that the Henry Vilas Zoo has become a regional asset, drawing visitors from a wide geographic area, such that in part the expense of its operation and maintenance should be borne by a unit of government having a tax base more nearly coterminous with the zoo's user base;"

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Common Council expresses its support of the commitment of \$500,000 in general obligation debt for the new polar bear exhibit and Children's Zoo at the Henry Vilas Zoo, pending final approval in the 2006 Capital Budget.