



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)

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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.