

BY ALDS. ZAMARRIPA, SPIKER, BROSTOFF, BORKOWSKI, PEREZ, RAINEY, BAUMAN, COGGS, CHAMBERS, STAMPER, WESTMORELAND, TAYLOR, PRATT

*Resolution recognizing Jan Van Rens for her contributions to the City of Milwaukee on the occasion of her retirement from Forest Home Cemetery.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **JAN VAN RENS**

*was recognized in July 2023 for her multiple contributions to the City of Milwaukee as the first Executive Director of Forest Home Cemetery; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Jan Van Rens was the first Executive Director of the Forest Home Cemetery, and was elected to administer and oversee the difficult task of its conversion from church-run trust into a community non-profit; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Jan has initiated several community engagement programs to cement Forest Home Cemetery as a vital part of both the local community and the history of Milwaukee, such as guided tours, holiday celebrations for Memorial Day and Dia de los Muertos, and 5K runs; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Jan's unwavering focus on community engagement has strengthened the bonds between Forest Home Cemetery and surrounding cemeteries, funeral homes and establishments, and individuals of nearby communities, thus ensuring Forest Home Cemetery's place as a valued and trusted city institution; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Jan's excellent leadership and interpersonal skills have led to impressive and much-needed expansion of the funeral staff, including the recruitment of ground workers, administrative staff, counseling specialists, and docents for the tour programs she created; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Jan's time as Executive Director have left Forest Home Cemetery poised for future success and excellence thanks to her expansion of its programs and workforce, community engagement and outreach initiatives, and effective leadership during its transition to a community non-profit; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes Jan Van Rens for her contributions to the City of Milwaukee on the occasion of her retirement from Forest Home Cemetery, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community and wishes for her continued success and happiness; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Jan Van Rens, an outstanding leader and pillar of the community.*

**Introduced by Common Council members JoCasta Zamarripa, Scott Spiker, Jonathan Brostoff, Mark A. Borkowski, José G. Pérez, Khalif J. Rainey, Robert J. Bauman, Milele A. Coggs, Mark Chambers, Jr., Russell W. Stamper, II, Lamont Westmoreland, Larresa Taylor, and Andrea M. Pratt and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on July 11, 2023.**