

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

Resolution recognizing Ken Leinbach for his contributions to the City of Milwaukee on the occasion of his retirement from the Urban Ecology Center.

WHEREAS,

KEN LEINBACH

was recognized in May 2023 for his multiple and consequential contributions to the City of Milwaukee as co-founder and Executive Director of the Urban Ecology Center (UEC); and

WHEREAS, *Ken Leinbach was responsible for the revitalization of Riverside Park (Riverside Park UEC, playground, gardens, trails and bridges, native plant restoration, public art installations, to name just a few), a jewel that attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually; and*

WHEREAS, *Ken helped to facilitate the revitalization of Washington Park with the Urban Ecology Center as the anchor, and was also lead partner in the creation of the Menomonee Valley Urban Ecology Center and Valley Passage; and*

WHEREAS, *Ken was a key partner in the expansion of the Hank Aaron Trail, and also a key partner and visionary for Three Bridges Park, for the 40-Acre Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum, and was part of the founding group that led to the 800-acre Milwaukee River Greenway; and*

WHEREAS, *Ken initiated catalytic conversations related to establishing the City of Milwaukee's sustainability office (Environmental Collaboration Office – ECO), assisted the Milwaukee Riverwalk concept and consulted on the creation of Kadish Park; and*

WHEREAS, *The growth and expansion of the Urban Ecology Center and associated projects (more than 400,000 people visit the UEC's buildings and parks annually) has made significant contributions to job creation in Milwaukee, mostly in environmental and sustainability fields; and*

WHEREAS, *Ken has been involved in fundraising more than \$75 million toward city and county parks and greenspaces (new parks, UEC buildings, bike paths, bridges, native restoration), and he has been honored with numerous awards during his career, including the Martin Luther King Award from St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church (Milwaukee), and the Green Nonprofit Leader of the Year from the Milwaukee Business Journal; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes Ken Leinbach for his contributions to the City of Milwaukee on the occasion of his retirement from the Urban Ecology Center, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community and wishes for him continued success and happiness; and, be it*

FURTHER RESOLVED, *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Ken Leinbach, an outstanding leader and visionary.*

Introduced by Common Council members Jonathan Brostoff, Scott Spiker, Marina Dimitrijevic, 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, Andrea Pratt, and JoCasta Zamarripa and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on May 31, 2023.