

BY ALDS. BAUMAN, HINES, BOHL, COGGS, KOVAC, PEREZ, WITKOWSKI

*Resolution honoring Bert Bilsky, who is retiring after 33 years of service to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.*

**WHEREAS,**

**BERT BILSKY**

*retired in June 2013 after 33 years of service with the Milwaukee Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Foundation (the first 31 years as the Foundation's executive director and the last 2 as senior legacy advisor), and was honored for his career achievements during the MJF's annual meeting on August 21, 2013; and*

**WHEREAS,** *A Chicago native, Bert Bilsky grew up in the West Rogers Park area, and as a teen became the regional president of the Chicago area AZA, which at that time was the boys' section of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO); and*

**WHEREAS,** *Bert majored in philosophy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., moved to Milwaukee in 1970 and worked for the BBYO in Milwaukee for about seven years, rising to regional director, and went on also to earn a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1979; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Bert Bilsky was named executive director of the Jewish Community Foundation in 1980, and under his leadership the JCF -- the endowment development program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation -- consistently ranked among the very top one, two or three per capita of similar foundations in the country; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Bert Bilsky has built his charitable work (Jewish Community Foundation, the endowment development program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation) in Milwaukee from about 35 funds with assets of 1.8 million 33 years ago to more than 700 funds with assets of nearly \$115 million; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Under Bert Bilsky's watch, proceeds from the JCF's funds have built and strengthened the community in numerous ways — from guaranteeing annual contributions to the MJF's annual campaigns to providing scholarships to supporting specific institutions to contributing to the general community; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Bert Bilsky on his retirement from the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, and wishes for him a happy and healthy future; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Bert Bilsky.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Robert J. Bauman, Willie L. Hines, Jr., Jim Bohl, Nik Kovac, Milele A. Coggs, Jose G. Perez and Terry L. Witkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on September 4, 2013.**