

*BY ALDS. BURGELIS, ZAMARRIPA, COGGS, PEREZ, PRATT, STAMPER, CHAMBERS, BAUMAN, WESTMORELAND, MOORE, TAYLOR, SPIKER*

*Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of James “Jim” Melotte.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **JAMES “JIM” MELOTTE**

*passed from this life on November 24, 2025 at the age of 76 and services were held for family and friends on December 12, 2025 at Krause Funeral Home, 12401 W. National Ave.; and*

**WHEREAS**, James “Jim” Melotte was born in Green Bay, WI where he graduated from Premonstre High School before moving to Milwaukee to begin his career as an electrician, and in 1999, he founded Avant Garde Body Piercing in West Allis, Wisconsin, becoming the oldest licensed body piercer in the state, and he would go on to collaborate with the State of Wisconsin to revise and update legislation governing body art, and taught courses to medical staff on the care and removal of piercings and jewelry; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Melotte was a fierce advocate and beloved figure in Wisconsin’s Pride community, having served as President of the Milwaukee Pride Parade since 2006, helping it grow from fewer than 15 entries to more than 200 by 2025, and in 2023, Jim was formally recognized by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for his contributions to the LGBTQ+ community; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Melotte’s creativity and curiosity were boundless, as he was an avid fan of Lego, loved to tinker (whether it was constructing a building or fixing a shelf), and always expressed a desire to fix something that was broken; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Melotte will be remembered by family and friends as always being the heart of every gathering, the source of every laugh, and the steady hand behind every project, and his lasting impact and the love he showed everyone will be remembered by all those who knew him; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith offers its sincerest condolences to the family and friends of James “Jim” Melotte and mourns the passing of this accomplished and honorable man; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the family of James “Jim” Melotte.

**Introduced by Common Council members Peter Burgelis, JoCasta Zamarripa, Milele A. Coggs, José G. Pérez, Andrea M. Pratt, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark Chambers, Jr., Robert Bauman, Lamont Westmoreland, Sharlen P. Moore, Larresa Taylor and Scott Spiker and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on December 15, 2025.**