

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: _____

Between the general fund and the annual award contract with the Wisconsin DNR under the guidance of the EPA Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coast Health (BEACH) Act of 2000, the City of Milwaukee Health Department operates a beach monitoring program. Wis. s.s. which requires the monitoring of beaches for human health hazards which include water quality and surf conditions such as riptides and dangerous waves and currents. Beach monitoring includes water sampling and laboratory analysis during the 15 week beach season between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The beaches include Bradford, McKinley and the newly relocated South Shore. Additional recreation events include USA Triathlon and the Dragon Boat Race in the Lakeshore State Park. Beach water quality and/or riptides/currents/waves may require closure

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

The addition of beach water monitoring and high-visibility surf condition notification (rip-currents, strong currents and hazardous waves) is intended to benefit all beach goers; including swimmers, divers, paddle boarders, and kite surfers. By improving real-time situational awareness, and leading to safer decision-making before the public enters the water. Recent local events highlight the need for this type of monitoring including one where the Oak Creek Fire Department responded to six water rescues at Bender Beach since June of 2024 (with at least 2 fatalities and multiple other rescues occurring since). Additionally, McKinley beach was closed for a period in 2020 which was associated with 4 deaths. As far as equity impacts are concerned, a May 2021 County Parks hearing discussed "unwritten rules of seareation. people of color consider McKinlev more

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Positive impacts of the beach sign postings for both water quality and surf conditions will give a better change for beach-goers, swimmers, divers and kite surfers to make better decisions before entering the water. Especially for those that may not have strong basic swimming skills such as the ability to float, tread water, perform the sidestroke or exhibit breath control while in the water. The recent addition/opening of the newly relocated South Shore beach at the new location will also be accompanied with the same signage as Bradford and McKinley, therefore, presenting a polished and professional uniform appearance for all beach-goers.



4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

Engagement efforts currently are the signs themselves, as well as the additional "risk" sign to be posted right next to the current signage as well as a declaration of "swim at your own risk" with a note about swimming ability. All signs previously mentioned are in multiple language as well.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

Public feedback on social media as well as beach surveillance will aid in assessing the impact of the current signage. Additionally, public health surveillance of ED visits for near drownings and/or fatalities will give a better understanding to impact and whether additional warning methods are needed, which may include flag poles.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

Beach lifeguards are under the purview of the Milwaukee County Parks and this will be the third year of no active lifeguarding on our lake shore. This absence will hinder assessments, however, we will rely on surveillance data and social media feedback.

Name: **Lucas Totzke**

Signature: **Lucas Totzke**

Digitally signed by Lucas Totzke
Date: 2026.04.01 14:50:56 -05'00'

Date: **04/01/2026**