

Date February 24, 2020

**APPROVAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT AGREEMENT
WITH THE BLANK PARK ZOO FOUNDATION, INC.**

WHEREAS, by Roll Call No. 11-0713 of April 25, 2011, the City Council approved a Lease, Operation, Management and Maintenance Agreement with the Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Inc. ("Lease") for the A.H. Blank Park Zoo facility located at 7401 Southwest 9th Street ("Zoo"); and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the terms of the Lease, the Foundation has proposed to construct an approximately \$1,780,000, 10,000 square foot Zoo Plex Event Center expansion to the Zoo which will accommodate educational programming, large events and traveling exhibits; and

WHEREAS, an Economic Development Grant Agreement between the City and the Foundation has been prepared to provide a grant to be used exclusively for the costs related to acquisition of furniture and equipment for the Zoo Plex Event Center; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the performance of the Foundation's obligations under the Agreement to construct and furnish the Zoo Plex Event Center zoo expansion will generate the following public gains and benefits: (i) it will initiate the expansion and improvement of the Zoo; (ii) it will encourage further private investment and will attract and retain businesses in the City; (iii) it will encourage the creation and retention of job opportunities which might otherwise be lost; (iv) it will help to maintain and expand taxable values in the City; and, (v) it will have a positive economic impact on the City, increasing tourism from throughout the Midwest by enhancing the quality of life within the City and by contributing to the City's efforts to retain and attract a skilled workforce and promote economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the provision of economic development assistance from the City is necessary to enable the Zoo Plex Event Center Zoo expansion and such assistance will generate public gains and benefits for economic development which gains and benefits are warranted in comparison with the amount of such assistance; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa that the Council determines that the Zoo Plex Event Center Zoo expansion pursuant to the Agreement, the intangible interest the City will retain through the actions of the Foundation and the fulfillment generally of the Agreement, are in the vital and best interests of City and the health, safety, morals, and welfare of its residents, and warrant the provision of the economic assistance set forth in the Agreement.

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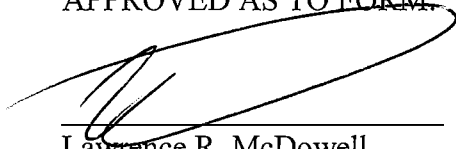
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Economic Development Grant Agreement between the City and Blank Park Zoo Foundation, Inc. is hereby approved and the Mayor is authorized and directed to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City and the City Clerk is directed to attest to the Mayor's signature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to make the payment of the Economic Development Grant to the Foundation in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement and the City Manager is hereby directed to administer the terms of the Agreement as appropriate.

Moved by _____ to adopt.

Council Communication No. 20-070

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Lawrence R. McDowell
Deputy City Attorney

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COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
BOESEN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
MANDELBAUM				
VOSS				
WESTERGAARD				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

City Clerk