

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE  
METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

|                                  |   |                        |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACKNOWLEDGING | ) | RESOLUTION NO. 91-1383 |
| ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY 1990-91    | ) |                        |
| BUDGET OF THE METRO WASHINGTON   | ) | INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL  |
| PARK ZOO                         | ) | ZOO COMMITTEE          |

WHEREAS, the property tax limitation approved by the voters at the November 6, 1990 general election will cause a revenue reduction of over \$500,000 to the Metro Washington Park Zoo in the 1991-92 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Zoo staff have proposed a combination of service reductions and revenue increases in fiscal year 1990-91 to accommodate the reduction in property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, projected savings from the service reductions will total \$198,491 in FY 1990-91; and

WHEREAS, the Council Zoo and Finance committees have recommended Council approval of Ordinance No. 90-376A, revising admission fees and policies at Metro Washington Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, in its deliberations on Ordinance No. 90-376A the Zoo Committee recommended Council adoption of a resolution which formally acknowledges staff's proposed service reductions and which further directs staff to implement those reductions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Council of the Metropolitan Service District:

1. Acknowledges that Zoo staff have developed a plan to combine service reductions and revenue increases in fiscal year 1990-91 in order to improve the financial position of the Zoo

Operating Fund in anticipation of reduced property tax revenues in 1991-92; and

2. Directs Zoo staff to reduce expenditures by a minimum of \$198,491 below budgeted amounts in the remainder of fiscal year 1990-91.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Metropolitan Service District  
this 24th day of January, 1991.

  
Jim Gardner, Deputy Presiding Officer

REGIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 91-1383, ACKNOWLEDGING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY 1990-91 BUDGET OF THE METRO WASHINGTON PARK ZOO

Date: January 24, 1991                      Presented by: Councilor McFarland

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: At its January 22, 1991 meeting, the Council Regional Facilities Committee unanimously recommended Council approval of Resolution No. 91-1383. Voting were Councilors Bauer, Buchanan, Gardner, and McFarland. Councilor Knowles was excused.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/ISSUES: Most of the discussion of this resolution centered on the decision to close the Children's Zoo, and is included in the Committee Report on Ordinance No. 91-376B. Councilor McFarland pointed out that this resolution is not really needed, but serves the purpose of notifying the public that cuts are being made at the zoo in response to Ballot Measure #5: increased admission fees are not the only measure being enacted to adjust to reduced property tax revenues.

Discussion of the content of Resolution No. 91-1383 is included in the Zoo Committee Report of January 8, 1991.

## ZOO COMMITTEE REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 91-1383, ACKNOWLEDGING ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FY 1990-91 BUDGET OF THE METRO WASHINGTON PARK ZOO

Date: January 8, 1991

Presented by: Councilor McFarland

Committee Recommendation: At its January 3, 1991 meeting the Council Zoo Committee voted unanimously to recommend Council adoption of a Resolution which acknowledges budget cuts imposed at the Zoo in response to the passage of Ballot Measure 5, and which directs the Zoo Department to enact those cuts. Councilors McFarland, DeJardin, Gardner, and Knowles voted aye; Councilor Saucy was excused.

Committee Discussion/Issues: In its discussion of Ordinance No. 90-376A, the Zoo Committee received a report from Zoo Director Sherry Sheng which described the service reductions/budget cuts planned or implemented at the Zoo. Zoo management began discussing possible money-saving measures prior to the passage of Measure 5, and identified some potential cuts. Following the election, Zoo management has developed a mix of service reductions and revenue increases to keep its budget balanced while maintaining a quality visitor experience. Part of this strategy calls for admission fee increases (Ordinance 90-376A) and service reductions in the current fiscal year, to build the 1990-91 ending fund balance and help absorb the projected loss of over \$500,000 in 1991-92 property tax revenues.

Service reductions are expected to produce \$198,491 in savings in FY 90-91. The measures being implemented are:

- Closure of the Children's Zoo
- Closure of Night Country exhibit
- Eliminating Zoo train operations in the winter, after Zoo Lights through March 15
- Reduction in night animal keeping service
- Reduction and reconfiguration of Visitor Services workers
- Deferral of equipment purchases
- Deferral of Animals Around Us ballot measure
- Reduced use of paid management intern

In the cases of exhibit closures, the animals will be sold or otherwise properly housed elsewhere. In response to a question, Ms. Sheng said that the Night Country space might be available for educational uses in the future, though it is not very well suited for such uses.

Councilor Knowles stated that he wanted the full Council formally to recognize that these cuts were being made, and to direct Zoo staff to implement them. The Committee concurred in the suggestion that its staff be directed to prepare such a Resolution. Councilor Knowles then moved that the Committee recommend Council adoption of a Resolution which formally directs staff to make the cuts they have recommended.