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City of Detroit

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TO: Ron Kagan, Executive Director and CEO
Detroit Zoological Society

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: March 11, 2021

RE: 2021-2022 Budget Analysis

Attached is our budget analysis regarding your department's budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 Fiscal Year.

Please be prepared to respond to the issues/questions raised in our analysis during your scheduled hearing on **Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 2:00 pm**. We would then appreciate a written response to the issues/questions prior to your budget hearing. Please forward a copy of your responses to the Councilmembers and the City Clerk's Office as well.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our budget analysis.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attachments
Issues and Questions

cc: Councilmembers
Auditor General
Jay Rising, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Tanya Stoudemire, Chief Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Steve Watson, Budget Director
Renee Short, Budget Analyst
Avery Peeples, Mayor's Office
James George, Agency CFO

Detroit Zoological Society

FY 2021-22 Budget Analysis by the Legislative Policy Division

The City of Detroit's \$570,000 general fund contribution to the Detroit Zoological Institute is in the Non-Departmental budget for FY 2022 (page B281 of 2022-2025 Four-Year Financial Plan).

Issues and Questions

- 1) Please briefly explain the Zoo's new expense initiatives, new capital funding requests, operational reform and savings proposals, and new revenue initiatives/proposals to be implemented in FY 2022.
- 2) Please provide number of budgeted positions for FY 2021 and FY 2022. Please indicate the number of vacancies the Zoo had as of February 28, 2021. Please briefly describe the difficulty of filling the vacancies. Please briefly explain the Zoo's strategy to fill the vacant positions or why the positions will remain vacant.
- 3) Please provide a brief update regarding the freshwater nature center slated to be located in Macomb County.
- 4) Please briefly explain any new plans for the nature center located on Belle Isle.
- 5) The Statement of Activities for Calendar Year 2019 indicates the Change in Net Assets (Without Donor Restrictions) decreased by \$6.2 million. Please explain the cause for the reduction.
- 6) Please briefly explain the changes the Zoo made in its operations to accommodate the pandemic.
- 7) Please provide the Zoo's annual financial statements as of December 31, 2020.
- 8) Please provide the Zoo's operational budget for FY 2020 and FY 2021.