

1 A RESOLUTION honoring John Walczak upon his retirement as Louisville Zoo
2 Director.

3 WHEREAS, John Walczak has been an employee of the Louisville Zoo since 1985,
4 and has served as its director since 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, as director, Mr. Walczak has been responsible for shaping the Zoo's
6 vision as well as creating and implementing its strategic plan while overseeing the work
7 of 120 full-time, 10 part-time, and more than 100 seasonal employees; and

8 WHEREAS, under Mr. Walczak's leadership, the Louisville Zoo has added the
9 Islands, Gorilla Forest, and Glacier Run exhibits, which have been recognized by the
10 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for excellence and innovation; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Walczak led the Louisville Zoo to achieve the AZA Significant
12 Achievement Education Award for its School at the Zoo program, and received Top
13 Honors in the AZA's 2017 International Conservation Award for gorilla conservation; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Walczak has been influential within the AZA as well, having
15 served on the Ethics Board, Membership Committee, Government Affairs Committee,
16 Honors and Awards Committee, Accreditation Commission, and the Board of Directors;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, under Mr. Walczak's leadership, the Louisville Zoo has achieved
19 milestone conservation efforts, including the birth of male elephant calf "Fitz" and the
20 addition of the rescued polar bear "Qannik"; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Walczak oversaw a \$14 million fundraising campaign, which
22 helped to expand and renovate the elephant exhibit, create the Little Penguin
23 Conservation Center, and add the Snow Leopard Pass and Colobus Crossing exhibits; and

24 WHEREAS, this \$14 million fundraising campaign is also currently funding
25 renovations to Lemur Mountain, which will be completed and reopened in 2021; and

26 WHEREAS, the Louisville Zoo has had over 25 million visitors during Mr.
27 Walczak's tenure as director; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Walczak gives back to his community by serving on many local
2 boards, including the Partnership for Creative Economies, the Rotary Club of Louisville,
3 the Arts and Cultural Attraction Council, and Indiana University Southeast;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
6 *Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor John Walczak upon his
8 retirement as the Director of the Louisville Zoo.

9 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of John
10 Walczak.

11 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
12 Resolution to Senator Morgan McGarvey for delivery.