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**Memorandum Finalizing the April 17, 2024 Disposition Decision**

TO: The Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc.

FROM: Christian W. Øverland  
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO  
Wisconsin Historical Society

RE: Disposition of Human Remains  
Milwaukee County Grounds Cemetery – Froedtert Tract #2 – MI-0527/BMI-0076  
Milwaukee, Milwaukee County  
WHS Case #12-0916

DATE: September 9, 2024

Under the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law’s provisions, *see* Wis. Stat. § 19.83(1), my April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision was presented to the Burial Sites Preservation Board (Board) during their public meeting on June 6, 2024. I am writing to confirm that the Disposition Decision is now final, and I direct that the disposition activities, as set forth in the Disposition Decision, begin within 60 days of the date of this letter.

Per the April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision, disposition related to the individuals and associated objects disinterred from Milwaukee County Grounds Cemetery – Froedtert Tract #2 in Milwaukee County, WI is awarded to the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc. for dignified reburial, based on the statutorily mandated order of priority of interests. *See* Wis. Stat. §§ 157.70(6)(a), 157.70(6)(d), and Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(6).

As was also discussed in the April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision, Wisconsin Administrative Code § HS 2.05(7) allows members of the Registry of Interested Persons with an interest in Milwaukee County Grounds Cemetery – Froedtert Tract #2 to request that the Board review the Director’s decision. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 157.70(6)(e), the Board is permitted, but not required, to review any disposition action. Accordingly, the April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision advised that the Board might decide to review the matter, and provided that the decision would not be deemed final until the Board either reviewed the decision or determined that no review was needed.

Two such requests for review were submitted to the Board, and the Board held a publicly noticed meeting on August 8, 2024, to determine whether to review the decision. On August 8, 2024, the

Board voted not to review the decision. Under the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law's provisions, *see* Wis. Stat. § 19.88(3), all votes are required to be recorded. I have now received and reviewed the approved minutes from the August 8, 2024, Board meeting which records and memorializes the Board's vote not to review the decision.

Therefore, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(2), the interim disposition that had been in place has now concluded. Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(6), the disposition decision rendered on April 17, 2024, and reiterated below, is now final. Accordingly, pursuant to my authority under Wis. Stat. §§ 157.70(6)(a), 157.70(6)(d), and Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(11), I now direct the disposition activities to commence, and to move forward with the dignified reburial of these individuals, as provided in the April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision and as repeated below.

The disposition application submitted by the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc. specified the reburial of the remains, associated funerary objects, and burial soils. As such, the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, Inc. is responsible for assuring the completion of the following requirements and responsibilities, which must be followed as set forth by Wis. Admin. Code §§ HS 2.05(9), HS 2.05(11)(a), and HS 2.05(12):

- Disposition activities must begin within 60 days of the date of this letter which serves as the final Disposition Decision. In this 60-day time period, Forest Home Cemetery and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Archaeological Research Laboratory must coordinate on plans for transfer of remains per the plan, as set forth in the application. Reburial activities must also begin in this 60-day time period, or within 60 days of when ground conditions permit reinterment, whichever is later (*see* Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(11)(a)).
- As set forth in the application, reburial of remains must occur immediately after transfer from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Archaeological Research Laboratory to Forest Home Cemetery.
- If disposition activities have not begun within 60 days of the date of this letter, or if reburial activities have not begun within 60 days of the date of this letter or when ground conditions permit reinterment (whichever is later), the Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society will order all remains returned and the disposition process will start again (*see* Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(12)).
- Monthly updates on the number of individuals reinterred by date and burial number are required to be sent to the Burial Sites Coordinator at the Wisconsin Historical Society, along with an annotated map of their location within Forest Home Cemetery.
- A witnessed and notarized statement to the Director is required within 60 days of all 831 individuals, associated funerary objects, and burial soils being reinterred at Forest Home Cemetery (*see* Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(11)(a)).

- As the planned reinterment is within the catalogued boundaries of Forest Home Cemetery (BMI-0028), no further locational information is required.

As required by Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(8), Froedtert Hospital, as the disturbing entity, must pay the cost associated with the dignified reburial, including a marker with the names of the individuals.

Following the April 17, 2024, Disposition Decision and in accordance with this memorandum, I expect the disposition to be complete within one year of this letter, which serves as the final disposition decision.

By copy of this letter, the Wisconsin Historical Society will notify all applicants, members of the Registry of Interested Persons with an interest in this burial site or class of burial sites, and the Burial Sites Preservation Board (*see* Wis. Admin. Code § HS 2.05(6)) of this final disposition decision.

Sincerely,



Christian W. Overland  
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO

Cc: Burial Sites Preservation Board  
Registry of Interested Persons  
Dr. Jennifer Haas, Director of the Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Jason Seymour, Forest Home Cemetery & Arboretum  
Maureen McNally, Froedtert Health  
Susan E. Lovern, von Briesen & Roper, S.C.  
Linda Annoye, Froedtert Town Hall Health Center