



*News From*

# **Cheryl Dinolfo**

## *Monroe County Executive*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **DINOLFO ANNOUNCES HOMECOMING OF POLAR BEAR ANOKI TO SENECA PARK ZOO**

*Anoki is the daughter of beloved polar bears Aurora and Yukon*

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** and Seneca Park Zoo officials are thrilled to announce the return of female polar bear Anoki to Seneca Park Zoo. Anoki was born at Seneca Park Zoo to parents Aurora and Yukon in 1996.

*“What a year it has been at our Zoo, with the opening of our Animals of the Savanna expansion last week and our Cold Asia exhibit earlier this summer. Today we are continuing the great news by welcoming Anoki back to her hometown,”* said **Dinolfo**. *“As the daughter of Aurora and Yukon, Anoki will have a special connection with many visitors who have come to know and love our polar bears over the years. This is truly an exciting time at our Zoo and I am grateful for all the Zoo does to grow more jobs and support stronger families across Monroe County.”*

Anoki left Seneca Park Zoo in 1998 to go Albuquerque Biological Park. In 2008 she moved to the Maryland Zoo where she quickly became a guest favorite. Seneca Park Zoo has been home to polar bears for over 55 years. The Zoo has been without a polar bear since April, when Aurora died of natural age-related causes. The return of Anoki was determined through discussions with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan, which manages populations of animals in conservation care.

*“Anoki will serve as an ambassador for her species, helping us educate guests about the formidable threats polar bears face in their natural range.”* said **Pamela Reed Sanchez, President and CEO of Seneca Park Zoo Society**. *“We are so happy to welcome Anoki back to Seneca Park Zoo.”*

Seneca Park Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through October 31, and 10 a.m to 3 p.m. after November 1. Guests who have already entered the Zoo can stay on grounds one hour past closing time. Learn more at [senecaparkzoo.org/visit](http://senecaparkzoo.org/visit).

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