

October 7, 2008

The Honorable  
Members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

Honorable Members:

Pursuant to s. 295-307-7-b of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, the Zoning Code Technical Committee, on October 1, 2008, reviewed Common Council File Number 080751, an ordinance relating to the definition of a sign.

Based on this review, the Committee found as follows:

- With respect to legality and enforceability, the proposed ordinance meets this standard.
- With respect to administration efficiency, representatives of the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Department of City Development indicated that the proposed ordinance would create enforcement problems, especially with respect to distinguishing between existing murals and grandfathered murals, “good” murals and “bad” murals, etc., thereby increasing the workload of the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- The Committee moved that the proposed ordinance does not meet the standards of administrative efficiency and consistency with the zoning code and recommended that a new ordinance be drafted addressing the following conditions:
  - A separate ordinance regulating murals solely, rather than as part of sign or graffiti regulations, should be created.
  - A permit process for murals needs to be established.

- A size limitation on murals must be included so that they are proportional to the buildings on which they are placed.
- The consent of the building owner to the painting of the mural is part of what makes a mural a mural, rather than graffiti. This should be included in the definition of “mural.”
- A mural must be pre-designed, with plans and a completion date submitted to the DCD Development Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teodros W. Medhin, Ph.D.  
Chair, Zoning Code Technical Committee