

MICHAEL S. D'AMATO
ALDERMAN, 3RD DISTRICT



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April 7, 2005

Grant Langley, City Attorney
City Hall, Rm. 800
200 E. Wells St.

Dear City Attorney Langley:

At a recent meeting of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee, the Committee considered file 041619, a file sponsored by Ald. Donovan relating to the penalties for loud sounds emitting from radios and other electrical sound amplification devices in motor vehicles.

At that meeting, it was brought to the Committee's attention that your office has advised the Milwaukee Police Department not to distribute copies of their forms which allow citizens to report loud noises emitting from vehicles (a copy of which is attached). The form requires identification of the vehicle from which the noise is being emitted as well as a description of the driver.

In his appearance before the Committee, Deputy Inspector Ray Sucik of the Milwaukee Police Department said that the department continues to accept and act on citizen complaints for these violations and issues citations based on local noise nuisance ordinances, as long as the person who is responsible for the noise can be adequately identified and the complainant is willing to appear in Municipal Court if the matter is contested.

A number of aldermen are concerned about the official City policy regarding these violations. The Police Department presently uses citizens as complainants and issue citations, but the Department is no longer distributing the forms. A mixed message is being sent to the community on whether or not we have the tools available to enforce this quality of life nuisance. Can the form be distributed if it contains all the necessary information? Can we revise the form in order to meet your guidelines?

I respectfully request a response by your office so that we may act upon the file being offered by Ald. Donovan and clarify this matter prior to the Judiciary and Legislation Committee meeting scheduled for April 26th.

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ald. Michael D'Amato, Chair
Judiciary and Legislation Committee

Cc: Ald. Donovan



LOUD CAR STEREO CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM

This form is for reporting the improper use of radios or other electric sound amplification devices from motor vehicles under State Statute 346.945. This statute states that within 24 hours after observing the violation, a member of the public may deliver a report containing the information of the violation to a police officer of the municipality in which the violation occurred.

I, the below listed person, did personally hear a motor vehicle emitting an electrically amplified sound that could be heard from a distance of 75 feet or more in violation of ss. 346.94(16)(a).

I wish to make a formal complaint to the Milwaukee Police Department about this violation. I realize that I may be subpoenaed to court as a witness to this violation.

DATE OF VIOLATION: _____ TIME OF VIOLATION: _____ A.M.
P.M.

LOCATION OF VIOLATION: _____

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER OF VEHICLE: _____ STATE: _____

COLOR OF VEHICLE: _____

TYPE OF VEHICLE (AUTO, TRUCK, ETC.) _____

DESCRIPTION OF DRIVER (IF KNOWN) CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

SEX: Male Female RACE: Black White Hispanic Other HAIR: Black Brown Blonde Red

OTHER INFORMATION ON DRIVER: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: () _____ EVENING PHONE: () _____

SIGNATURE: _____

FOR POLICE USE ONLY

Received By: _____ Payroll No. _____

Date Received: _____ Time Received: _____

* * * * * Attach DOT listing of vehicle registration * * * * *

Supervisor Assigning Follow-Up: _____ Date: _____

Investigating Officer: _____ Payroll No. _____

Disposition (Include Citation Number if applicable): _____

(Use back of report if needed)

Distribution: 1. Completed original form to Traffic Section 2. Copy to complainant upon receipt of form.