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Office of the City Clerk

Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk

Jim Owczarski
Deputy City Clerk

March 25, 2008

Honorable Members
Public Safety Committee
Milwaukee Common Council

Dear Committee Members:

Following is a summary of actions taken by the City Clerk's Office and the Common Council to implement recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force, as directed by Council File 070742:

City Clerk's Office

1. Utilize Channel 25 to include fireworks information before and during peak periods of fireworks usage.

City Channel 25 created a Public Service Announcement which was aired in the weeks before New Year's Eve and will be run again before July 4th. This announcement was also provided to Time Warner Cable for use on its system.

2. Collaborate with DOA-ITMD to include fireworks information on the City's homepage before and during peak periods.

A message regarding illegal fireworks, incorporating the Public Service Announcement created by Channel 25, was posted on the city's web site in the weeks before New Year's Eve and will be posted again before July 4th.

3. Send a letter to other municipalities in Southeastern Wisconsin referencing the findings of the Fireworks Task Force, specifically that many municipalities and fireworks vendors are not adhering to State law.

A letter summarizing the findings of the Task Force, and a copy of its recommendations, was emailed to 140 municipalities in southeastern Wisconsin.

4. Collaborate with Milwaukee County on an intergovernmental agreement to put more signs, approximately 20 - 30, at each park entrance.

The Legislative Reference Bureau has been in contact with Milwaukee County's Parks Department and is gathering information to draft a proposed intergovernmental agreement for consideration by the Council.

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5. Contact Summerfest and Milwaukee County to encourage including fireworks information on respective websites.

The City Clerk's Office will be contacting Summerfest and Milwaukee County regarding this recommendation closer to the July 4th holiday.

6. Contact local news stations and newspapers to encourage including fireworks information in respective stories.

The City Clerk's Office will be contacting the media closer to the July 4th holiday and provide information that they can use.

7. Distribute the Fireworks Task Force final report to Municipal Court judges.

This was done shortly after the adoption of Council File 070742.

Common Council

1. Raise forfeiture ranges for adult and juvenile violations of s. 105-47, the fireworks ordinance.
2. Amend s. 105-47 of the Code to mirror s. 167.10 (9)(c), Wis. Stats., which reads, "A parent or legal guardian of a minor who consents to the use of fireworks by the minor shall forfeit not more than \$1,000."

Both Items 1 and 2 were addressed by the Council in File 071408, which was adopted on March 18th and is awaiting the Mayor's approval.

3. Common Council members should include information relating to the fireworks law in newsletters and press releases.

The Public Information Division has prepared information for use in aldermanic newsletters, which may again be distributed after the spring election.

4. Council members should hold press events during peak periods providing information relating to the fireworks law and risks.

The Public Information Division will also be providing information for aldermanic press events, as requested.

In addition to the above, the Common Council has also adopted two resolutions calling on the state legislature to adopt various changes to state law, in accordance with the recommendations of the task force.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk