

Captain Install Inc.  
2231 N. Humboldt Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

March 1, 2007

Licenses Committee  
Office of the City Clerk  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

I have grave concerns about the proposed ordinance #061341 that the Licenses Committee is considering regarding the licensing of installers. As an area resident and mobile enhancement/electronics retailer, I am cognizant of concerns regarding hearing protection, sound ordinances, and the protection of the peace and tranquility of private citizens. But I don't believe that ordinance #061341 offers logical solutions. Further, I feel as though I could be robbed of my livelihood. Please give thoughtful consideration to the ramifications of this ordinance before enacting it as law.

I have to wonder what other products the Licenses Committee might try to regulate by holding a third party responsible for the irresponsible actions of others. To take my (or my employee's) ability to work in the city as an installer of mobile electronics products because some individual violated a city sound ordinance would make me think that the installer's due process and equal protection would be violated.

As you likely know, it is not uncommon for communities to seek to regulate loud and offensive noises that disturb private citizens. No one likes any type of loud or unwanted noise that enters our homes, especially during normal sleeping hours. Generally our children, usually between the ages of 16 to 24, are the operators of most loud car audio systems. The vast majority of these young adults are law-abiding, good kids looking for a fun way to get together with others in their age group. For many of them car audio is a hobby, one that spurs their imagination and offers them a creative outlet for their youthful exuberance. This is a far better way for them to spend their time and disposable income rather than partaking in illegal or other harmful activities. We must be diligent in understanding their needs and desires as well.

I understand that some of the sound ordinances across the country were originally put in place to give authorities another tool in stopping the drug dealers in our country. Of course, I am in support of anything we can do to protect our children from such evils. However, we cannot let this overshadow the rights of our law-abiding adolescents by limiting their rights to have a good time.

The City of Milwaukee has many sound ordinances on the books. Please review Chapter 80 of the city ordinances. It would seem that maybe the city has an enforcement problem because it is clear that there is adequate legislation in place to control sound issues in the city. Creating another method that holds not the offender but others does nothing more than rob hard-working citizens of their ability to make a living.

Please reconsider this course of action.

Respectfully,

James Richey  
Owner, Captain Install Inc.