

## Written comments from Sharon Ward

After appearing at public hearing last Thursday night at City Hall, I wanted to re-affirm the the comments I made to the committee members and Judge Butler. My understanding of the task force's charter was that it was to address ways to correct the inadequacy of licensing regulations and aldermanic "privilege" that allowed Mr. Michael McGee, a former alderperson, recently convicted of illegal & criminal actions with the alcohol licensing policies of the City of Milwaukee. I was in attendance of the first meetings before Judge Butler was appointed by Council Chair Hines to oversee this task force. I do not think that the tentative recommendations described at the public hearing do what the task force was commissioned to do.

I think they put the focus on the applicant again. There is a real solution to all of this.

After the Occupance Permit is issues and the Department of Neighborhood Services approved a location, the license could be issued by the State of Wisconsin, thus taking the ability of an alderman to act in the manner Mr. Michael McGee Jr did out of the picture entirely. The local alderman could present a written statement with the applicant's license information and they could then be approved on the same basis for all applications. If there is a special letter or police objection, that could also be attached to the submission to the State of Wisconsin for consideration prior to approval or denial. By removing the Alderperson of the area of the City of Milwaukee that the license is being applied for, any chance of a repeat performance is removed. I understand moving the application process to the State would be an undertaking but not an insurmountable one. Any attempt by the task force to make it more difficult on the applicant is not addressing the original problem, criminal misuse of the power of a City Official, namely an Alderman, who should NOT have the power to require donations or campaign contributions as part of being approved; nor any other special favors or compensation.

Thank you for the taking the time to reflect on my comments.

Sharon Ward, 1979 S. 15 St., Milwaukee