



# City of Milwaukee

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**ALD. ROBERT DONOVAN, CHAIR**  
**Ald. Robert Puente, Vice-Chair**  
**Ald. Terry Witkowski, Ald. T. Anthony Zielinski, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton**

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Thursday, January 3, 2008

1:30 PM

Room 301-B, City Hall

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#### Meeting Convened: 1:39 P.M.

**Present** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski, Hamilton

1. [071172](#) Appointment of Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy West to the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to serve as the representative for the Milwaukee County Executive.

**A motion was made by ALD. WITKOWSKI that this Appointment be RECOMMENDED FOR CONFIRMATION. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

2. [071185](#) Motion relating to the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee relative to various licenses.

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

- 2a. [071251](#) Communication from various alarm businesses relating to the enforcement of the City of Milwaukee's alarm business ordinance.

*Also Present:*

*Mark Weidmann, Agent, HSM Securities.  
Council President Willie Hines, 15th Aldermanic District.  
Officer Ann McCarthy, Milwaukee Police Department.*

*Alderman Hines advised committee members that he understood that there were grounds for non-renewal of the private alarm licenses before them and that he respected the recommendations set forth by the committee; however, that he was concerned about the impact non-renewal of the alarm business licenses might have on the city's constituents who would be left without alarm services they had already paid for.*

*He continued that he had met with the alarm companies present to request that corrective*

*plans of action be implemented to rectify the existing problems so the city's residents would not suffer a loss.*

*Alderman Hines also identified specific areas of services or lack of services he had concerns about. He recommended implementation of the following:*

- HSM should provide better overall service to their Milwaukee customers.*
- Provide explanation of first responder services to customers.*
- Accommodate customers for services paid for but not rendered.*
- Implement corrective steps to prevent future false alarms.*
- Pay all outstanding fines in full.*

*Mr. Weidmann appeared before the committee to provide an overview of HSM's corrective action plan. He advised members that HSM was a full service provider of private alarm services that included sales, installation, service and monitoring systems.*

*He informed members of implementation of the following corrective action plan by HSM:*

- Complete review of Milwaukee accounts with continual audits of action plans within the system.*
- Automatic monthly electronic audit with manual review when problems identified.*
- All city of Milwaukee accounts reviewed by a team of trained monitoring specialists.*
- HSM has drafted a letter to all customers advising them of the company's verified response policy, which is currently awaiting approved by HSM's legal department.*
- Draft form to be included with contract identifying HSM's verified response policy for new customers that would require customers acknowledge with their signature indicating they understand that a first responder company would verify alarms and that police respond upon confirmation of alarm by the first responder company (awaiting legal department approval).*
- HSM's system will flag accounts when action plans have been established for enforcement.*
- Outlet for customers to report concerns or problems with the alarm services.*

*Alderman Puente asked Mr. Weidmann when the standard action plan was enforced?*

*Mr. Weidmann responded that the plan was started in November 2007 and that all accounts were updated by December 31, 2007.*

*Alderman Puente asked if there had been any false alarms since the enactment of the action plan?*

*Officer McCarthy responded that there had been seven incidents between December 1, 2007 and January 2, 2008.*

*Alderman Puente continued, had there been a reduction in the incidents of false alarms since the proceeding?*

*Officer McCarthy responded yes, that seven incidents was a tremendous decline.*

*Alderman Puente requested that Ms. McCarthy forward data identifying all calls for false alarms and complaints that occur from January 4, 2008 to January 14, 2008 to council members prior to the January 15, 2008 Common Council meeting.*

*Alderman Hines requested clear confirmation from Mr. Weidmann on how HSM would*

*rectify their failure to provide services to customers who had paid for services they had not yet received.*

*Mr. Weidmann responded that HSM would apply some degree of credit to customers and address errors on a case-by-case basis.*

*Alderman Hines requested that HSM submit a corrective plan of action to council members prior to the January 15, 2008 Common Council meeting that would identify how customers would be compensated for the lack of services.*

*This matter was held in council at the December 11, 2007 meeting of the Common Council and will be heard for final action at the January 15, 2008 Common Council meeting.*

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Communication be HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

*Also Present:*

*Ryan Newcomer, Agent, Firstline Security.*

*Wayne Tomlinson, Firstline Security.*

*Officer Ann McCarthy, Milwaukee Police Department.*

*Mr. Newcomer and his associate Mr. Tomlinson appeared before the committee to submit a corrective action plan relating to issues surrounding the private alarm services provide by Firstline Security.*

*A few of the of the issues that sparked concern about Firstline's Private Alarm Business Services were misrepresentation of their services Milwaukee customers, such as police response to alarm calls and the report of numerous unverified burglar alarm calls to the Milwaukee Police Department.*

*Mr. Newcomer and Mr. Tomlinson advised the committee of Firstline's plans to enforce the following preventative measures to rectify current and any future problems that may occur:*

*-Audit of 1,003 customer accounts for change of patch procedures.*

*-Forward updated procedures (Wis. Stats., and Milwaukee Code of Ordinances 107-75) to 2,804 previously installed alarm systems no longer under Firstline control.*

*-Firstline will include Milwaukee Code of Ordinance, section 107-75 in their contracts to advise customers that a response company will be first on site to verify alarms and that the police department will only respond if necessary.*

*-All Secondary patches corrected.*

*-Review of all queries.*

*-Letter sent to Milwaukee customers apologizing for the company's misrepresentation of services; also to include explanation an explanation of services relating to first response sources and all other corrected and true practices.*

*-Firstline to offer free services for 1-month to their Milwaukee customers at a cost of \$45,000 to Firstline.*

*-Automated solution to force corrected procedures.*

*-Change in sales training manual.*

*-Confirmation call to customers to make sure they understand Firstline's policies and*

*practices including their no police response policy.*

*Public Safety Committee members made the following requests of Firstline:*

- Forward a copy of Firstline's policies, also a copy of the letter of explanation to their customers to all Aldermen.*
- Proactively communicate with the Milwaukee Police Department to address issues related to their alarm services.*
- Contact Alderman Hines prior to the January 15, 2008 Common Council meeting to address any concerns he may have.*
- Assistant City Attorney Schrimpf recommended that Firstline proactively seek background checks on first responder employees.*
- Develop procedures for hiring first responder employees*
- Police Department provide data to council members relating to any complaints or unverified alarms to the Milwaukee Police Department from January 4, 2008 to January 15, 2008.*

*This matter was held in council for final action at the January 15, 2008 Common Council meeting.*

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Communication be RECONSIDERED. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Communication be RECOMMENDED FOR PLACING ON FILE. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

3. [071013](#) Substitute ordinance relating to parking controls in various Aldermanic Districts.

**A motion was made by ALD. HAMILTON that this Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

4. [071014](#) Substitute ordinance relating to traffic controls in various Aldermanic Districts.

**A motion was made by ALD. WITKOWSKI that this Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

5. [071223](#) Resolution relating to the Milwaukee Fire Department's application, acceptance and funding of the 2008 Project Safe Neighborhoods Eastern District Gun Violence Reduction grant from the State of Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

*Also Present:*

*Deputy Chief Michael Jones, Milwaukee Fire Department.  
Emma Stamps, Financial Officer, Milwaukee Fire Department.*

**A motion was made by ALD. WITKOWSKI that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AND ASSIGNED TO the FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE . The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

6. [071224](#) Resolution relating to the Milwaukee Fire Department’s application of the Fiscal Year 2007 Assistance to Firefighters grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

*Also Present:*

*Deputy Chief Michael Jones, Milwaukee Fire Department.  
Emma Stamps, Financial Officer, Milwaukee Fire Department.*

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

7. [071211](#) Resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of a Milwaukee Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Grant.

*Also Present:*

*Deputy Inspector Mary Hoerig, Milwaukee Police Department.  
Barbara Butler, Financial Officer, Milwaukee Police Department.*

**A motion was made by ALD. ZIELINSKI that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AND ASSIGNED TO the FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE . The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

8. [071221](#) Resolution authorizing the acceptance and expenditure of contributions received by the Milwaukee Police Department from federally forfeited tangible property or cash for increased or enhanced law enforcement efforts.

**A motion was made by ALD. PUENTE that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AND ASSIGNED TO the FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE . The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

9. [071088](#) Substitute resolution relative to the application, acceptance and funding of the 2008 Comprehensive Home Visiting Grant from the State of Wisconsin Division of Health and Family Services.

*Also Present:*

*Yvette Rowe, Financial Officer, Health Department.  
Anna Benton, Health Department.*

**A motion was made by ALD. WITKOWSKI that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AND ASSIGNED TO the FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE . The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 4 - Donovan, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

**Excused** 1 - Puente

- 10. [071096](#) Substitute resolution relative to the application, acceptance and funding of the 2008 Consolidated Contract from the State of Wisconsin Division of Health and Family Services.

**A motion was made by ALD. WITKOWSKI that this Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AND ASSIGNED TO the FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE . The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

- 11. [071216](#) Resolution relative to the application, acceptance and funding of the Private Healthcare Provider Education and Awareness on Antiviral Medication Use during Pandemic Influenza from the National Assoc. of City and County Health Officials.  
*Common Council File #071216 was held to the call of the chair.*

*No other action was taken relative to this matter.*

**HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR**

**THE FOLLOWING FILE WILL NOT BE HEARD AT THIS TIME:**

- 12. [070750](#) A substitute ordinance relating to curfew hours and the responsibility of operators of businesses.  
*Common Council File #070750 was held to the call of the chair.*

*No other action was taken relative to this matter.*

**A motion was made by that this Ordinance be HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

- 13. [071237](#) An ordinance relating to parking of vehicles for periods exceeding 24 hours in an extended pilot program.  
*Also Present:*

*Alderman Robert Bauman, 4th Aldermanic District.  
Cindy Angelos, Department of Public Works.*

**A motion was made by ALD. ZIELINSKI that this Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR PASSAGE. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 4 - Donovan, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 1 - Puente

14. [070429](#) A substitute ordinance clarifying complaint and prosecution procedures for certain noise nuisances.

*Common Council File #070749 was held to the call of the chair.*

*No other action was taken relative to this matter.*

**A motion was made by that this Ordinance be HELD TO CALL OF THE CHAIR. The motion PREVAILED by the following vote:**

**Aye** 5 - Donovan, Puente, Witkowski, Zielinski and Hamilton

**No** 0

**Meeting Adjourned: 4:35 P.M.**

*Diana Morgan  
Staff Assistant*

**This meeting can be viewed in its entirety in the web-casting archives found at [www.milwaukee.gov/channel25](http://www.milwaukee.gov/channel25).**