



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration



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To: Ronald D. Leonhardt
City Clerk

From: Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health *BKB*

Date: September 23, 2004

Re: Dance Studio Inspections

Currently the health department does an annual inspection of dance studios for the City Clerk and reports those inspections to the Common Council's licensing clerk so that a dance studio license can be issued or renewed. The health department would like to discontinue dance studio inspections because there is no health code that deals with the requirements for a dance studio. Therefore, through this memorandum, I am requesting that the ordinance for the health department to inspect dance studios be removed.

The requirement that the health department inspect public dance studios is found in Chapter 108-7 (1a) (Public Dance Halls – Issuance of License) of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances and it reads as follows: "Applications shall be referred to the chief of police, the commissioner of neighborhood services and the commissioner of health, all of whom shall cause an investigation to be made and report their findings to the common council licensing committee."

Historically dance studios have not provided food; therefore, a public health inspection is not warranted and should not be required. In addition, the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) does an investigation prior to occupancy and licensing to address building code violations. In the event that an establishment is found to be providing food, the health department will conduct an inspection and issue a license in accordance with Chapter 68-4 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances. Therefore, eliminating the requirement for a health department inspection in a dance studio as required in Chapter 108-7 (1a) will not cause harm to the public's health and would free my staff to do other more relative public health work.

Should you have questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Consumer Environmental Health Manager Loyce C. Robinson at extension 5776. Thank you.