



9/15/09

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Milwaukee Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force decided in a vote of 7 to 1 on August 10th, 2009 to recommend to the Common Council the elimination of mandatory bike licensing within the City of Milwaukee.

The task force fully supports a voluntary bike licensing program be continued to help with the recovery of stolen bicycles and identification of bicyclists. There are a number of reasons for this recommendation:

**Task Force Members**

- Steve Brachman
- Mark Buetow
- Shirin Cabraal
- Keith Holt
- Claude Krawczyk
- Tory Kress
- Dave Schlabowske
- Shea Schachameyer
- Guy Smith
- Angie Tornes
- Maurice Williams

First, the existing program does not have the capacity to be implemented in full throughout Milwaukee because of its administrative burden. There is lack of outreach and education to consumers about the mandatory bike registration; specifically, neither the City of Milwaukee nor the Milwaukee Police Department adequately advertises to the public that bike licenses are mandatory. The locations which distribute bike licenses are limited. Presently libraries and police stations stock bike license stickers. In addition, there are not a sufficient number of bike license stickers available. This summer the City of Milwaukee printed an additional 10,000 bike licenses; yet this will only allow for 59% of the bikes purchased in Milwaukee this year to be licensed (17,000 new bicycles are purchased in Milwaukee each year). Furthermore, instances have occurred where police stations and libraries have been out of the licenses and the bicyclist was turned away, unable to license their bicycle.

Second, the mandatory aspect of the current program allows for the pretextual stopping of bicyclists. The Task Force concurs with the report cited within the issue brief prepared by the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin and believes that the negative impact on communities and the distrust of the police that selective enforcement breeds, outweighs any positive effects of the practice.

Lastly, best practices throughout the United States show a trend of bike licensing programs becoming voluntary. Cities such as New York City, San Francisco, Washington DC and the state of Minnesota have all begun implementing voluntary programs within the last few years. Furthermore, the League of American Bicyclists and the Alliance for Biking and Walking, both national leaders in bicycle advocacy and policy, endorse voluntary bike licensing programs.

In all, please consider the recommendation of the City of Milwaukee's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force by supporting the ordinance change to make Milwaukee's bike licensing program voluntary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Holt, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shea Schachameyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shea Schachameyer, Co-Chair