



Police Department

Nannette H. Hegerty  
Chief of Police

December 29, 2003

Honorable John O. Norquist  
Mayor  
City of Milwaukee  
200 E. Wells St., Room 200  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Norquist:

On December 19, 2003 the Milwaukee Common Council passed City Ordinance 90-27-1, which would enable all liquor-licensed premises to lock their exterior doors, provided they are equipped with monitors and recording equipment. This ordinance also requires that the Milwaukee Police Department be notified prior to the installation of such equipment and that, once installed, entry is granted to a law enforcement officer within five seconds of a request.

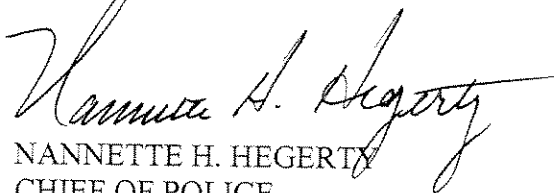
At the Utilities and Licenses Committee hearings of November 11, 2003 and December 2, 2003, Deputy Inspector Raymond Sucik and Sergeant John Hogan raised the following concerns on behalf of the Milwaukee Police Department:

1. The inability of law enforcement officers to make unannounced visits upon licensed premises will severely hinder an officer's ability to enforce various criminal statutes and municipal ordinances. Many violations may go undetected if violators are given prior warning of a police presence.
2. Evidence of crimes or municipal violations may easily be concealed or destroyed during the five-second delay that law enforcement officers are prevented from entering a licensed premises.
3. Proponents of this ordinance cite security concerns as the need for enabling these establishments to lock their doors. However, it is not always possible to identify somebody who is armed or who intends to engage in unlawful conduct by simply viewing a television monitor.
4. Should an accusation of unlawful conduct be made, significant police resources would be needed to examine videotapes for evidence within the ordinance's narrow seven-day retention requirement.

5. Furthermore, this ordinance does not guarantee that those who intend to commit an unlawful act on such premises will not gain entry. As patrons exit these establishments, others may enter or individuals may enter with the assistance of others already inside.
6. If an incident or crime occurs on these premises, causing witnesses and other patrons to flee, a badly injured person may be left inside a locked premises. Responding public safety officials would then have to use force to gain entry to the premises, which ultimately delays response and subsequent medical treatment.
7. I also fear that those who have been denied entry may call the police for claims of discrimination and bias. These situations do not typically fall under the jurisdiction of the police department.
8. Finally, if there is a malfunction of the locking device, I believe a severe threat to public safety may occur.

Should you require additional information, please contact Deputy Inspector Raymond Sucik of the Administration Bureau at 935-7203 or Sergeant John Hogan of the License Investigation Unit at 935-7455.

Sincerely,



NANNETTE H. HEGERTY  
CHIEF OF POLICE