

Polanco (Urtiz), Joanna

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 5:40 PM
To: Polanco (Urtiz), Joanna
Subject: Fwd: Public Safety Meeting - 7/30/2025

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marc Fortney <mfortney@fortneycompanies.com>
Date: July 30, 2025 at 5:00:25 PM CDT
To: "Bauman, Robert" <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Eric Fortney <efortney@fortneycompanies.com>
Subject: **Public Safety Meeting - 7/30/2025**

Alderman Bauman,

Good afternoon. My brother and I were following the Public Health and Safety Committee live stream this morning. We share the same concerns as you and our neighbor businesses in the area. The issues we are seeing on Water Street this summer stem from individuals who do not patronize the Water Street businesses, and simply come downtown to loiter and congregate on the street/sidewalks. This summer is the worst we've ever seen.

We absolutely support setting up a more-controlled perimeter where patrons could be screened prior to entering the area. We think that would discourage the large groups of people who do not patronize the businesses from coming to the area to begin with.

Some additional points/suggestions we'd like to communicate:

- For Uber/Lyft pickup and drop-off, there would need to be a designated area outside of such a perimeter to keep traffic organized. I think the city can coordinate with the ride share apps to designate an area that works best for them.
- It may be worth exploring whether to close access to such an area at a certain time on weekend nights that is earlier than when the bars close.
- We have seen issues with groups congregating inside two nearby parking garages. One is on East Juneau Ave across from the MSOE

campus, and the other is at the corner of North Water St and East Highland Ave. These have a tendency to turn into late night hangout spots where people park, drink/smoke by their cars, play music, etc. I'm not sure if the city can place controls on these parking garages to stop entry late night, but just wanted to make you aware of it.

- In our travels, we encountered an interesting type of vehicle barrier in another market in Texas. I've attached some photos. They are removable steel bollards that the police could set up easily on the weekends. The attachment points are set in concrete flush with the road, but the bollards themselves attach fairly easily. Something for DPW and MPD to consider potentially to replace the wooden, sawhorse-style barriers. We saw these in Fort Worth, TX, so their police department may have good insight into a specific make/model that worked for them.
- I know you mentioned there is a sort of "fund" that could be contributed to for additional police equipment/resources (i.e. bollards, cameras, lighting, etc). We (and I'm certain the other businesses nearby) would be willing to contribute to some of these items to help improve the safety of the area.

If there's anything else we can do to support initiatives that improve the safety of the area downtown and the people who patronize our businesses please let me know. I do not have the contacts for everyone at the meeting. Could you pass our thoughts along to the appropriate parties?

Thank you,

Marc Fortney

