

Wed. April 5, 2000  
Public Safety  
Committee  
Hearing - MSC

\* Mr. Chairman; Honorable Alderpersons

I am Sandra L. Schultz, Milwaukee

a Safety Commissioner since 1982-83;

~~Author of the Communication File # 991832 and 991893.~~ <sup>Speaking to File # 991832 and 991893. In support</sup>

Re: OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES - MSC

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to these 2 issues

The MSC's RESPONSIBILITY re Safety Precautions  
in the interest of the Community and...

The MSC's Accountability to the City Officials

via "Enabling Ordinance" 320-27

had been curtailed: severely stifled..

Our voice for Safety silenced

PROBLEM: Incongruities of 2 Ordinances:

320-27 Directs the Milwaukee Safety Commission "to do"

312-23 Directs the Milw. Police Dept. Safety Division  
"to do" what the Milw. Safety Comm. had been  
doing (prior to 1989 when the changeover of  
responsibilities from the Commission, were  
brought under the police dept. The role of the  
Commission + position of Safety Director to the Police Dept. Safety  
Division, was never fully delineated. Somewhat over-lapping respon-

ibilities have caused confusion and great frustration especially to the Safety Commission and its members. In many ways the confusion has made our efforts a "Mission Impossible".

This confusion brought about the "Communication" File # 991832....

Which offers Resolutions to our concerns.

Two results came forth:

1) The introduction of File # 991893

"An ordinance relating to constituting the Safety Commission as a separate and independent budget control unit in city government", which our "Communication" File # 991832 supports.

2) The second result from this Communication re "Operational Difficulties" of MSC was given via a "9-point Memo" from the Mayor's office to the Safety Commission after a March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Chief of Police, which still requires some clarification, while our "basic operations" are under the auspices (so-to-speak) of the Police Dept.

It is our desire to be a separate + independent "budget control unit" of the city. The Safety Commission, with assistance of a well-informed, safety-minded, and safety educated staff, can be held more accountable to the responsibilities of it's mission.

In the interest of brevity, I'd like to address File # 991893 first: the need for new legislation to clearly enable the MSC "to be" recognized as a fully vested commission under City Charter.

I refer you to the communique the Commission requested and received from the City Attorney's office: Feb. 7, 2000, (page 2) Quoting "There appears to be no statute or provision of the Milw. City Charter that specifically envisions a Safety Commission, or either directs or authorizes its creation." Chapter 16 of the City Charter does create City Commissions, but the Milwaukee Safety Commission, made up of 18 volunteer citizen members and 10 Advisory positions, with safety interests, which has actively and effectively served this city for 80 yrs, bringing safety messages, saving lives + reducing injuries, both in traffic + in homes, around schools + in industry, is not among them. The Safety Commission was appointed by Mayor Hoan in 1920.

Therefore we support File # 991893, allowing the Milw. Safety Commission to become established as an independent entity secured in city government, with a budget consideration for resources, such as: stationery, postage, computer, fax + copying ability; grant writing access, video development capability, staff and housing within city government. but allowing

for freedom to work with any departments in city government, as well as with professional & non-professional safety agencies, including state, federal and other organizations,

Just a "point of information" A very recent memo from the Mayor's office states that a proposed appointment to the position of Safety Director has been made. As printed, it is a "Safety Director" for the "Safety Commission". At present, there is no such position; there is only the position of Safety Director of the Safety Division of the Milw. Police Dept. ~~is~~ ~~of~~ Dec. 8, 1999 letter from Mayor "will consult with both MPD Chief & Comm. on candidate selection" <sup>with Dept</sup> <sup>adm</sup>

Because File # 991893 is in an "introduction" state, I feel the need to explain our concerns for the "Operational Difficulties" germane to File # 991832.

The "enabling authority" of the MSC is contained in Ord. 320-27 stating: "It shall be the duty of this Commission to investigate, advise, and report to the mayor, common council, police department and commissioner of public works and other city officials concerning the best methods of providing for the safety and convenience of the public in matters of safety and to give the greatest possible publicity as to safety precaution

Difficulties: <sup>working staff under command of Chief; incl. any New Director</sup> Resources <sup>not within our control</sup> ~~to go~~ <sup>press releases will be free to go out, remains to be seen,</sup>

Direction

1.) Ordinance 312-23 replaced the position of "Managing Director" + staff from the Safety Comm. to the police dept. Quoting from the City Attorney's letter: (pg.4) "The current state of the law thus is uncertain concerning the status and substantive authority of the Milw. Safety Commission. The Commission itself is not under the command of the Chief of Police. However, the Safety Director and associated support staff through which any recommendations made by the Milwaukee Safety Comm need be implemented are under the command of the Chief of Police. This state of affairs may, in case of conflict... <sup>(between them)</sup> result in a situation where the Commission becomes unable to act effectively or to implement any of its recommendations without the concurrence of the Chief."

\* (supporting evidence re News Releases) (Min of USC. April 6, 1998)

Resources

Referring to p.3 of our communication File# 991832, Police Dept's Confiscation of MSC <sup>press release stationery</sup> and a directive that "no materials bearing the Milw. Safety Comm name be distributed" completely silenced our voice for safety and "handcuffed us from performing our duties as outlined by Ordinance. This also curtailed all of our planning strategies both for 1999 and now into the year 2000. The City Attorney states (p.4) "the Chief is under no obligation to devote resources of the Milw. Police Dept. to the support of the Milw. Safety Comm."

This is but another reason for the MSC to be an "independent budget control item," for it seems hardly fair and equitable that the M.P.D. should have to expend their time and monies to support the broad-based safety projects and programs of the Commission, which work in conjunction with:

- a) Health Dept: Safe Kids Coalition
- b) Milw. Fire Dept: Education - Survive A Fire House
- c) Traffic Engineers Dept: Signage, roadways etc
- d) Milw. Public Schools: Transportation Safety
- e) Dept of Public Works: Vision Setback; <sup>sight-line</sup> obstruction
- f) Legislative Reference Bureau: <sup>leg. rec. of MSC</sup> proposed, pending, passing
- g) Time + Resources to appear + work with agencies:
  - Natl' Safety Council
  - Coop. Conf. on Safety
  - Sheriff's Seat Belt Enforcement Project
  - WI Bureau of Transp. Safety (BOTS)
  - Natl Highway Transp. Safety Assoc. (NHTSA)
  - Traffic Court
  - Safety Cadet Program
  - MADD, BADD, SADD chapters
  - WAWHSL
  - CPSA

we certainly do not see the Commission as a threat to the M.P.D. +

~~Therefore~~  
However

WI Safety Belt Coalition, Madison. We do appreciate the efforts put forth to make a harmonious working relationship with the chief, but in everyone's best

In our desire to rectify the current situation, the City Attorney further states (p.5) "the ambiguity surrounding the status of the Milw. Safety Comm. ..."

9918c

itself... is a matter of continuing concern & one that can only be properly resolved by new legislation, "with which we concur."

In conclusion:

It can clearly be seen that... for now...

We are not chartered "to be";  
yet "enabled" "to do" —

Enabled "to do";

But not having the "tools" to do with,  
(with a guarantee)

We are not — we cannot — be

The Milwaukee Safety Commission  
As we have been.

Thank you for your sincere  
patience

Paula G. Schultz  
Commissioner