



Fire Department

William Wentlandt
Chief

Mark A. Sain
Assistant Chief

April 16, 2007

Alderman Joe Davis Sr.
Chair
Fireworks Task Force
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

The Milwaukee Fire Department is pleased to have been involved in the Fireworks Task Force and is appreciative of your leadership on this important public safety issue.

In 2006, illegal fireworks were the cause of several fires in the City of Milwaukee. Most of these fires occurred around the July 4th, with many of these fires in occupied buildings. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports over 2,000 fires caused annually by fireworks.

In spite of strict City of Milwaukee laws that restrict the sale and possession of fireworks, many explosive and incendiary devices are easily and legally obtained in bordering counties for illegal use in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee Fire Department supports the collaboration of groups including the National Fire Protection Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and International Association of Fire Fighters along with other health and safety advocacy organizations that have joined together to form the *Alliance to Stop Consumer Fireworks*.

April 16, 2007

It is the position of the Milwaukee Fire Department that trained professionals under controlled settings should be the only persons authorized to use fireworks with appropriate safeguards in place. Additionally, we support amending Wisconsin law with the goal to prohibit sales of all consumer fireworks. Some states including Arizona, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York ban all consumer fireworks.

At the very least, steps should be taken to prevent the sales of fireworks to residents of those communities that have more restrictive laws regulating the use of fireworks. I look forward to the summary findings and recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force and remain available to advocate on behalf of the public safety of our community.



WILLIAM WENTLANDT
Chief

WW/hm