

Elmer, Linda

From: Robinson, Sharon
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2008 4:11 PM
To: Donovan, Robert; Puente, Robert; Witkowski, Terry; Zielinski, Tony; Hamilton, Ashanti
Cc: Elmer, Linda; Vornholt, Paul; Miller, Michael
Subject: Following Up/Public Safety Committee Meeting Today

TO: Members of the Common Council Public Safety Committee
FROM: Sharon Robinson, Director, Department of Administration
RE: Resolution directing implementation of the recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force

I am e-mailing you to follow up on the question posed by Alderman Witkowski at today's Public Safety Committee meeting about the DOA Intergovernmental Relations Division's (IRD) efforts to implement recommendations of the Fireworks Task Force. I just spoke with Paul Vornholt who learned about these recommendations and the Common Council resolution last week. He informed me that IRD is doing its part to implement recommendations including outreach to government entities (noted in the recommendations) and related to lobbying.

It is Paul's goal to communicate with other government entities next week (most likely via e-mail and a follow up phone call). As is required, he will reference the findings of the Fireworks Task Force. He will also contact the District Attorneys and Sheriffs in municipalities, which allow vendors to sell illegal fireworks, requesting them to take action to cease all sales of illegal fireworks in their municipalities.

With respect to lobbying, since the legislature is not in full session, IRD has not led an extensive lobbying effort to change State statutes related to fireworks to date. Although IRD can begin educating Wisconsin members of the State Legislature and others legislators, they will have to wait until they reconvene to mount a full scale effort to advance legislation in this regard.

If you would like to speak personally with Paul Vornholt and Michael Miller (who has been tracking the activities of the Fireworks Task Force), I would be happy to have them make a visit to your office. Otherwise, I will make sure they both appear at the next Public Safety Committee given the fact that the file remains open.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sharon Robinson
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