



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ZEPNICK
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

March 30, 2006

Committee on Public Safety
Alderman Donovan, Chair
City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Donovan and other Public Safety Committee Members,

I write in support of this City Ordinance to allow towing of unregistered motor vehicles in the City of Milwaukee. This is an issue that I have been working on at the state level, culminating in the passage of Assembly Bill 240 last week, which now allows us to make these changes at the City level.

This is a great change in City Ordinance for the law-abiding citizens of Milwaukee. We can reclaim our streets for those of us who pay for registration and plates, eliminating abandoned vehicles from Milwaukee.

Under current law, if a car appears abandoned and unregistered and is without license plates, the City of Milwaukee must verify the car's registration using its Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). If the VIN cannot be read or seen, then the registration status cannot be checked and the car cannot be towed. We now have the ability to change City Ordinance to tow a car after 31 days if it does not have on display a valid license plate or temporary license plate, regardless of whether the VIN is visible.

For the safety and security of Milwaukee residents, these abandoned cars must be removed. Abandoned cars pose problems to fire and police personnel responding to emergency calls, causing delays and endangering residents. This change will also protect property taxpayers who end up subsidizing the irresponsible behavior of people breaking the law.

I would also like to thank Alderman Donovan and other City officials who helped in passing Assembly Bill 240 into law so that we could make these changes. I think this process serves as an example of City and State officials working together to bring measurable change to the residents of Milwaukee. I hope we can continue to work together on other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Zepnick".

Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District