

From: Nichole Todd <nicholeytodd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 11:53 AM
To: Burgelis, Peter <Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>; Brower, Alex <Alex.Brower@milwaukee.gov>; Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Opposition to File 250195, A substitute ordinance relating to residential trampolines,

Good Morning, Alderman Burgelis,

I hope that you are doing well! I see that File 250195 is scheduled to be back before the Public Safety & Health Committee this Thursday. The second substitute ordinance in Legistar does not appear to have the amended language you said you were going to offer, including adding the alternative to the five-foot distance requirement of following manufacturer's guidelines for enclosed trampolines.

I would be interested in seeing the new language that will be discussed in committee if it can be made available in Legistar prior to the committee meeting.

I remain opposed to anything that overly restricts residents' ability to provide recreational opportunities to their children in the privacy of their own backyards. I understand that you would like to have an ordinance to enforce for clear safety concerns related to open trampolines near low fences like the one you shared in your district, but the Milwaukee Common Council cannot possibly regulate all potentially unsafe recreational activities that take place on private property with limited lot space for which a larger space is optimal.

Thank you for your time and continued attention to improving this proposed ordinance.

Best,
Nikki

From: Nichole Todd <nicholeytodd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 8:18 AM
To: Burgelis, Peter <Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov>
Cc: Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>; Brower, Alex <Alex.Brower@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Opposition to File 250195, A substitute ordinance relating to residential trampolines,

Thank you for your attention to these concerns and for your willingness to amend the resolution language, Alderman Burgelis.

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From: Burgelis, Peter <Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:33 AM
To: Nichole Todd <nicholeytodd@gmail.com>

Cc: Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>; Brower, Alex <Alex.Brower@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Re: Opposition to File 250195, A substitute ordinance relating to residential trampolines,

Dear Alderman Burgelis,

I hope that you are doing well! I am writing to express my concerns with and opposition to File 250195- A substitute ordinance relating to residential trampolines, item 14 on the June 24, 2025, Milwaukee Common Council agenda.

I have lived in the 3rd Aldermanic District since 2008. My husband and I have raised our two children in our current home over the past ten years. We purchased our home primarily because it was it walking distance to our children's K3-8 grade school. There are many features about our home that I love, but we have a rather small backyard. During the COVID-19 pandemic, like many parents of young children, we identified safe recreational opportunities at our home. We purchased an outdoor climbing dome, and when our children outgrew it, last year we purchased an enclosed outdoor trampoline. Jumping on it is their favorite thing to do.

Should this resolution become ordinance, we are not able to move this fully enclosed trampoline five feet away from the fence that separates us from one of our neighbors-- the six-foot fence that we had installed five years ago, principally for our children's safety. There is simply not enough grass space. We would have to move it onto concrete (our driveway or sidewalk) to comply with this ordinance, which is obviously less safe than a grass surface and not at all practical.

I understand that you have a responsibility to consider safety regulations on private property, and I certainly support reasonable government regulations that are well-examined and for which a need is demonstrated. In this case, it appears that you have one constituent who has an unsafe, non-enclosed/open trampoline directly next to a low fence, which clearly represents a safety concern. I can understand a regulation that narrowly addresses this undoubtedly rare circumstance; however, this one example should not adversely impact every resident that has invested in and provided a safe environment for their children to get exercise in the privacy of their property. Enclosed trampolines are very different from open trampolines. Enclosed trampolines are designed to be self-contained. If they are correctly installed, it is nearly impossible for a child to jump outside the top or go through the netting on the sides. Enclosed trampolines do not need a clearing of five feet to be safe. If they did, I certainly would not have it three feet away from a high fence.

When I learned about this resolution, it had already passed out of committee the week prior. I was hoping to watch the committee meeting to hear the discussion, but the video never became available. Had I been aware prior to this resolution being scheduled in committee, I would have testified. I would have asked how many injuries have been caused by children jumping off *enclosed* trampolines in the City of Milwaukee. I suspect

zero. I would have asked how the safety regulations were determined and whether the Department of Neighborhood Services or Health Department was consulted.

While I am only one resident, I believe that I represent the opinions of many other parents who are not aware that this ordinance is being considered by the full Council on Tuesday and will be very upset when it is passed.

I am asking that this file be sent back to the committee so members can have time to communicate with neighborhoods associations and notify their constituents through various channels to receive feedback. In the alternative, I would ask that enclosed trampolines be exempted from this over-reaching regulation and/or fences not be considered permanent structures.

I apologize for communicating my concerns with this resolution so close to its vote by the full Council-- I only learned of it last week and, between work and personal obligations, I have not had the opportunity to draft and send this message until tonight. I would have preferred to discuss this with you over the phone prior to sending written communication, as I have always found you to be a thoughtful policymaker who listens to residents, even if they are not your constituents.

A message outlining my concerns about this matter is being sent to all members of the Milwaukee Common Council individually.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nichole Todd
414-745-9615 mobile

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