

February 27, 2022

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3024 North 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53222-5209

Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission  
200 East Wells Street #706A  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Attention: Honorable Edward Fallone, Chairman

Dear Chairman Fallone,

I am writing to you in regards to the recent FPC amendment to allow police officers to tow unregistered vehicle engaged in the following:

1. Endangering safety by reckless driving
2. Exceeding the posted speed limit by 25 MPH or more
3. Fleeing from an officer
4. Drag racing

I believe that this change in policy should and must include vehicles that have expired or current registration that are engaged in the above captioned activity to more effectively address this very serious traffic issue.

Recent news reports indicate that in 2021, the municipal court issued fines in 16,230 speeding cases. In 6,715 cases, the fine was paid in full. In more than half, 8,920, there have been no payments made.

The pattern is similar for reckless driving cases, where 211 fines were issued last year. In 150 cases, there have been no payments made and just 42 have been paid in full. For those fined for unreasonable and imprudent speed, 78 of the 281 cases last year were paid in full and 186 received no payments.

In as much as this policy is scheduled to be placed into effect on May 1, 2022 I would ask that the FPC consider upon towing and impoundment of the vehicle the vehicle should not be released back to the owner/driver until:

1. Towing and Storage fees are paid in cash only.
2. Proof that the fine(s) in municipal court have been paid in full.
3. Proof of registration that the vehicle has been registered and the license plates are physically present to install on the vehicle at the impoundment yard.
4. Proof of registration that the vehicle and the license plate year sticker is physically present to be installed on the expired license plate at the impoundment yard
5. The owner/driver retrieving the vehicle has a current Wisconsin driver's license.

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6. The owner/driver shows proof of vehicle liability insurance that meets the minimum state of Wisconsin requirements.

With respect to Commissioner Avalos expressed written concern for the disproportionate affects a towed vehicle of on some communities in Milwaukee I do not share her concern as the data shows. With 211 Reckless Driving citations issued in 2021 the data clearly shows the magnitude of this problem does not match the public or Commissioner Avalos mis-perception.

**Calculation:**

$(211 \text{ citations for 2021}) / (12) = 17.6 \text{ citations per month.}$

In as much as the policy change goes into effect 5/1/22 with (8) months left in the year.

**Calculation:**

$(17.6 \text{ citations per month}) \times (8 \text{ remaining months}) = 141 \text{ citations could be expected for the remainder of the 2022 year.}$

**Fact:** The 2021 Data clearly shows that in the overwhelming majority, the fines for 150 of the 211 citations issued have not been paid, and these people are still driving (recklessly).

With respect for the call for root cause analysis of this Reckless Driving problem by Avalos and Commissioner LaNelle Ramey this would be an academic exercise in futility. I have zero interest in this and so should the FPC. Reckless driving in Milwaukee is a public safety problem and not a sociological problem to be solved by either the Milwaukee Police department or the FPC.

Street calming by the Milwaukee DPW is a waste of time, throwing good money after reckless driving behavior with the end result another obstacle course for the continued reckless driving.

As the overall data indicates too many people in Milwaukee are going to continue to drive as they damn well please regardless of what the Law says. The only practical solution that I see is to take their cars away from them and make it physically and financially challenging to get them back.

If you have any questions, I maybe contacted during regular business hours at cell telephone number (414) 573-2598. Thank you.

Very truly,  
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CC:  
Alderman Michael Murphy, 10<sup>th</sup> District.