

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

Form CA-43

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

RUDOLPH M. KONRAD
Deputy City Attorney

THOMAS E. HAYES
PATRICK B. McDONNELL
LINDA ULISS BURKE
Special Deputy City Attorneys



OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY
800 CITY HALL
200 EAST WELLS STREET
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53202-3551
TELEPHONE (414) 286-2601
TDD 286-2025
FAX (414) 286-8550

BEVERLY A. TEMPLE
THOMAS O. GARTNER
BRUCE D. SCHRIMPF
ROXANE L. CRAWFORD
SUSAN D. BICKERT
HAZEL MOSLEY
HARRY A. STEIN
STUART S. MUKAMAL
THOMAS J. BEAMISH
MAURITA F. HOUREN
JOHN J. HEINEN
MICHAEL G. TOBIN
DAVID J. STANOSZ
SUSAN E. LAPPEN
DAVID R. HALBROOKS
JAN A. SMOKOWICZ
PATRICIA A. FRICKER
HEIDI WICK SPOERL
KURT A. BEHLING
GREGG C. HAGOPIAN
ELLEN H. TANGEN
MELANIE R. SWANK
JAY A. UNORA
DONALD L. SCHRIEFER
EDWARD M. EHRlich
LEONARD A. TOKUS
MIRIAM R. HORWITZ
MARYNELL REGAN
G. O'SULLIVAN-CROWLEY

Assistant City Attorneys

August 16, 2002

Public Safety Committee
of the Common Council
Room 205 – City Hall

Attention: Mr. Ronald Leonhardt

Re: File No. 020654/An Ordinance to Amend Secs. 110-16 and 110-35, MCO,
Relating to Theft and Retail Theft

Dear Committee Members:

Attached is a draft ordinance that would increase the applicable dollar amounts for municipal prosecution of theft and retail theft from \$100 to \$500. Currently, Municipal Court only has jurisdiction to hear cases, and the Police Department can only issue municipal citations, where the value of the property or merchandise stolen is less than \$100. If the value is \$100 or more, the matter is referred to the District Attorney.

We are recommending this change because the ordinances have not been adjusted upwards in many years. The Police Department will have an avenue to prosecute smaller shoplifting and theft incidents, rather than referring the individual to the District Attorney.

In addition, this change will encourage consistent treatment of offenders in the City and the various Milwaukee County suburbs. There have been several meetings of a group of, among others, Milwaukee County Municipal Judges, police chiefs, city and village attorneys, and

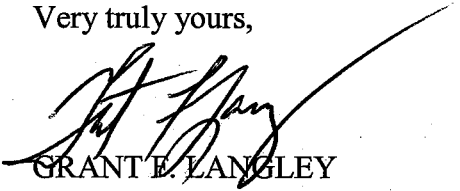
Public Safety Committee

August 16, 2002

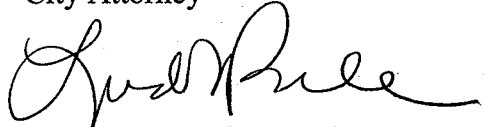
Page 2

the District Attorney, to develop a consistent set of charging guidelines so that citizens of suburbs and the City are treated the same. This recommendation is one of the results of those meetings.

Very truly yours,



GRANT E. LANGLEY
City Attorney



LINDA ULISS BURKE
Special Deputy City Attorney

LUB:dms

Enc.

c: Barry Zalben
Chief Arthur Jones

56736