

September 7, 2015

Council President Murphy and Licenses Committee Members
Milwaukee City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Council President Murphy and Members of the Licenses Committee:

Thank you for your efforts to work with the scrap recycling industry on our concerns with the proposed Umbrella Licensing Ordinance. We represent the three largest scrap recycling operations in the City of Milwaukee: Miller Compressing, United Scrap and Mill Valley Recycling. Together, we employ over 350 people in the City of Milwaukee, 244 of which are people of color, and 231 of which are Milwaukee residents. We provide family-supporting, living-wage jobs with benefits to our employees, as well as a necessary recycling service to citizens and businesses within the City. The industry provides approximately \$22 million in property tax base to the City of Milwaukee.

We are writing today in support of the revised ordinance that you will consider at the September 7, 2015 Licenses Committee meeting. As the scrap recycling industry, we are the number one victims of metal theft, and we are committed to working with the police department to catch criminals who steal and sell scrap metal.

We came before you in May with concerns about how proposed changes to the ordinance would disadvantage Milwaukee businesses and send our customers to other municipalities. After the meeting, we hosted members of the police department at our facility, and they came to realize the security infrastructure that we already have in place can be used to help them identify and catch criminals.

The version of the ordinance you are considering today allows our companies to use enhanced video surveillance to fulfill reporting requirements. This provides police with more evidence to catch criminals, but does not place an unreasonable burden on our businesses.

In addition to changes to the ordinance, as an industry, we want to do even more to help police catch thieves who are stealing from boarded up homes and those under renovation. We have agreed to put together a "Strike Force" of industry partners, as well as representatives from the police department and the District Attorney's office. Additionally, we are committed to investing funds, as an industry, to create a pilot program that would help catch criminals stealing from abandoned homes.

We feel confident that our efforts will allow us to work collectively to catch criminals. We support the changes made to this revision of the ordinance, and want to extend our thanks to: Members of the Committee, Lt. Johnny Sgrignuoli, Officer Jeff Thiele, Council President Murphy, Sarah Zarate and Andrew VanNatta.

With your help and collaboration, we believe we have found the best solution to reduce scrap metal theft. We urge you to vote in favor of the ordinance today.

Sincerely,

Jon Spiegel
Miller Compressing

Joe Erlich
Mill Valley Recycling

Art Arnstein
United Scrap

Darren Engbring
Miller Compressing

Larry Erlich
Mill Valley Recycling

Tony Teich
Mill Valley Recycling