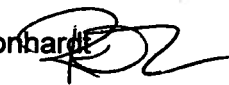


**City
of
Milwaukee**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members
Common Council

FROM: Ronald D. Leonhardt 
City Clerk

DATE: July 29, 2009

RE: Requirement to prove citizenship or qualified alien status for licenses

The City Clerk's Office has introduced an ordinance (File 090411) relating to citizenship and qualified alien status requirements for issuance of professional or commercial licenses or permits by this Office. This ordinance requires all applicants for new or renewal licenses or permits for conducting a business or an occupation to provide either proof of U.S. citizenship or documentation issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security which authorizes the applicant to engage in such business or occupation.

This ordinance was introduced in order to comply with the United States Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 which prohibits state and local governments from conferring public benefits, including professional and commercial licenses and permits, upon persons who are not citizens of the United States or certain qualified aliens. The City Attorney has advised that this federal law applies to the issuance of licenses and permits by the License Division and we are required to comply.

Under the ordinance, the License Division will reject any new or renewal application if the required documentation is not provided. There is a procedure for appealing the rejection to the licensing committee. There is also a procedure for the License Division to initiate revocation proceedings when the status of an alien changes and the individual no longer has documented permission to work in the United States.

This file will likely be scheduled in September. In the interim this Office will be communicating with affected communities of interest and the media to inform them of the reasons this ordinance is being proposed. Please feel free to contact License Division Manager Rebecca Grill or me if you have any questions, or to direct concerned individuals to us for further information.

Cc: Jim Owczarski
Rebecca Grill
Bruce Schrimpf

Rdl/License/m-cc-citizenship.doc