



September 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Federal requirements have prompted the City Clerk's Office to introduce an ordinance (File 090411) relating to citizenship and qualified alien status requirements for issuance of professional or commercial licenses or permits. The 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.

The ordinance was introduced to ensure compliance 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 of the City Clerk's Office, and that we are required to be in compliance.**

Under the ordinance, the License Division will reject any new or renewal application if the required documentation is not provided. However, the ordinance includes a procedure for appealing the rejection to the Common Council's Licenses Committee, and 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 for a hearing before a Common Council committee in the near future. To read the legislative file, go to www.city.milwaukee.gov and click on "Council Files" on the right side of the main page, and then type 090411 in the search window and hit "enter."

Please contact **License Division Manager Rebecca Grill** (phone 414-286-2238; or license@milwaukee.gov) or **City Clerk Ron Leonhardt** (phone 414-286-2221; or rleonh@milwaukee.gov) if you have any questions, or to direct concerned individuals for further information.

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