



Legislation Text

File #: 200263, **Version:** 2

200263
SUBSTITUTE 2

ALD. STAMPER, RAINEY, LEWIS, PEREZ AND KOVAC

Substitute resolution requesting the Fire and Police Commission to adopt a policy to implement a database providing information to the public regarding police officers' and firefighters' badge or other identification numbers and their records.

This resolution requests that the Fire and Police Commission adopt a policy to implement a database that provides information to the public regarding police officers' and firefighters' records pertaining to incident reports, disciplinary actions, citizen complaints, and related information, which would be searchable by name and badge or other identification number.

Whereas, Publicly-available information about those charged with carrying out the work of the government is integral to the bedrock of society; and

Whereas, The intent of public records law is to provide information to the public; and

Whereas, The function of public records law can serve to obscure the intent; and

Whereas, It is essential to balance the right of the public to obtain information about the public acts of those who are funded by taxpayer dollars and concerns regarding safeguarding strategic decisions for public welfare; and

Whereas, Making information available to the public regarding the acts of police officers or firefighters that are at odds with safeguarding the people they are charged with serving and protecting is essential to not only public welfare but also to the wellbeing of the Police Department and Fire Department; and

Whereas, Some states, including Minnesota, have a public, searchable database with information related to police officers' records pertaining to incident reports, disciplinary actions, citizen complaints, and other related information, which is searchable by name and badge number; and

Whereas, Implementing this type of database would provide the public with information regarding public safety; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that the Fire and Police Commission is requested to adopt a policy to implement a database that provides information to the public regarding police officers' and firefighters' records pertaining to incident reports, disciplinary actions, citizen complaints, and related information, which would be searchable by name and badge or other identification number.

LRB 176106-2
Tea B. Norfolk/Jeff Osterman
7/7/2020