
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 27, 2009

Ald. Bob Donovan
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Operation Bass Busters Back & Looking to Empower Citizen Complainants

The effort to encourage Milwaukeeans to take action by reporting vehicles emitting excessively loud music or sounds continues, and **Alderman Bob Donovan** and Milwaukee police will be renewing their “Operation Bass Busters” effort to help draw public attention to the initiative.

The 2009 edition of Operation Bass Busters will kick off during a news conference tomorrow (Thursday, May 28) on the near south side. **Alderman Donovan will be joined by neighborhood stakeholders and Milwaukee Police Captains Donald Gaglione (District Two) and Michael Young (District Six) during the 11 a.m. news conference Thursday at the northeast corner of W. Mitchell St. and S. Muskego Ave.** Once again yard signs emblazoned with “Slow Down” and “No Loud Music” in both English and Spanish will also be displayed at the event.

Alderman Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee, said more than 300 citations were issued (nearly all for excessively loud car stereos) as part of the effort last year, and he hopes more city residents avail themselves of the opportunity again this year. “These vehicle owners brazenly turn up their stereos so they can be heard for blocks around – they have zero respect for the privacy and dignity of their neighbors and others,” he said.

According to Alderman Donovan, police will also be initiating a special enforcement effort to coincide with Operation Bass Busters.

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Operation Bass Busters Is Back/ADD ONE

“Officers will be directed at roll call to keep their ears and eyes open for loud car stereos that are disrupting the peace and quiet of our neighborhoods,” he said. “And the officers know from experience that many times stops for loud music and sounds can be fruitful in terms of arrests and seizures for everything from drugs and guns to warrants and unpaid traffic tickets.”

How Citizens Can Get Involved

In an effort to help reduce the numbers of obnoxiously loud car stereos blasting ear-cracking, bass-thumping music, **the Common Council has approved an ordinance that allows Milwaukee citizens to take action by lodging complaints against owners of vehicles blasting excessively loud music or sounds** generated by car stereos by simply providing a license plate number, the date and time of the violation and their name and contact information.

Here’s how it works:

- A citizen encountering a vehicle with loud music or sounds blaring from it should **get the license plate info and call the Milwaukee police non-emergency phone number – 933-4444**. The reporting party should try to remember the location and time the vehicle was witnessed, and the complainant will be asked to file or sign an official complaint for police.

The ordinance mirrors the city’s nuisance property ordinance, which allows the city to issue tickets and fines to property owners when police are called to investigate multiple complaints at a home or building. Under the nuisance vehicle loud noise ordinance, the owner of a vehicle that is the subject of a loud stereo complaint would receive a warning for the first complaint but would be charged for the cost of enforcement on any subsequent complaints, meaning fines of at least \$100 could be levied for each subsequent occurrence.

With the nuisance property ordinance, any unpaid fines or charges go directly on the owner’s property tax bill, and under this ordinance, charges and fines will go directly to the owner of the vehicle – no matter who might have been driving at the time of the violation.