



JAMES N. WITKOWIAK
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

Statement of Alderman James N. Witkowiak April 6, 2010

This past weekend, WITI-TV Channel 6 (Fox Six) aired a news story about **Club Sugar**, 126 E. Mineral St., and some of the issues pertaining to the club that have been brought to my attention recently.

Up until earlier this year, the club, which does not serve alcohol and caters to young people between 17 and 20 years of age, had operated with relatively few problems. However, roughly eight weeks ago the club began having regular and fairly serious disruptive incidents occur at closing time. Cruising, loud car stereos, and disturbances have been the rule – not the exception – each and every week. As I told Fox Six reporter Chrystina Head, Milwaukee police officers must regularly respond to Club Sugar at closing time to ensure that patrons disperse and to maintain order.

A statement issued by the club's ownership (and shown during the Fox Six report) referred to "tactics" that they believe are being employed by myself and the police department "to close the establishment." This simply isn't an accurate description of my approach to responding to the problems that have surfaced in relation to the club.

First, holding a tavern and/or dance license in the City of Milwaukee is a **PRIVILEGE**, and not a right. Over the past several weeks I have received numerous complaints from neighbors who have had to endure the loud disturbances and general mayhem that has been a regular occurrence outside Club Sugar at closing time.

Second, by moving forward with a public meeting (6:30 p.m. on April 14th at Bradley Tech High School) to gather input from residents, club patrons, and other stakeholders, I am doing my job as alderman. Again, I don't call that "tactics," I call it doing my job and my best to protect the quality of life in that neighborhood and in my district.

If need be, I will not hesitate to seek revocation of Club Sugar's licenses to operate, and I will ask my Common Council colleagues for their support in that endeavor.

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