
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 29, 2008

Ald. James N. Witkowiak
(414) 286-2221

CORRECTED VERSION

Alderman Witkowiak Wants Cap On Vehicle Registration Fee

The proposed annual \$20 vehicle registration fee that will be taken up tomorrow by the Common Council should be capped for the remainder of the current council's term, which will end in April 2012, according to an amendment to be offered by Ald. James N. Witkowiak.

The proposed fee, billed in addition to the annual state vehicle registration fee, would be assessed on automobiles, trucks, and station wagons whose gross weight is 8,000 pounds or less. The fee would be assessed only to eligible vehicles that are customarily kept within the city limits, and the ordinance creating it would allow the Council to immediately lessen the burden on property owners by adjusting the recovery ratios for certain assessable reconstruction improvements by eliminating the recovery ratio of 60% for paving improvements, reducing the recovery ratio for alley improvements from 90% to 60%, and reducing the recovery ratio for walk improvements from 70% to 50%.

Alderman Witkowiak, a co-sponsor of the ordinance that would create the registration fee, said he plans to offer the amendment because he believes it's necessary for the Council to set limits on the fee. "I firmly believe that without a \$20 cap on the registration fee we could see attempts to increase the fee, and that's what I want us to avoid," said Alderman Witkowiak, chair of the Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee.

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Registration Fee Amendment/ADD ONE

Revenues derived from the fee would only be used to defray city costs associated with transportation related purposes, including but not limited to the design, operation and maintenance of streets, alleys, bridges, public way lighting, traffic signs, and other similar items.

The registration fee would take effect 61 days after the city clerk notifies the DOT of the ordinance's passage, and the recovery ratio adjustments for assessable improvements would impact any affected city projects approved by the Council on and after April 15, 2008.

The full Common Council meets tomorrow (Wednesday, July 30) at 9 a.m. in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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