

JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District



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A call for maximum penalties for fireworks violations

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.
July 2, 2012

Despite warnings and pleas from local fire and police officials, and from other public and elected officials, I've been told that business has been steady at fireworks stands in communities surrounding Milwaukee. This is a dire concern because the extreme dry conditions that we are experiencing make the threat of fire a very real possibility – even from one spark or burning ember from a firework.

Today I am calling for Milwaukee police to enforce the maximum penalties on those individuals caught setting off or possessing fireworks in the City of Milwaukee. Merely possessing fireworks is against the law in Milwaukee and can result in fines ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 (and parents/guardians will be held liable for the acts of minors!). The city has done its due diligence with outreach and publicity about the penalties and the fact that fireworks are illegal, so any violations are uncalled for and violators have had fair warning.

Citizens should remember that it takes just one bottle rocket to land on a roof, or to ignite grass next to a home or a garage, to start a deadly fire in your neighborhood.

If you know that someone is setting off fireworks in your neighborhood, please call police at 933-4444 and report it immediately.

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