Council passes ordinance to support enforcement of “Safer-at-Home” order

Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis
April 22, 2020

Since the State of Wisconsin and City of Milwaukee have instituted similar “Safer-at-Home” orders the city, and in particular the Milwaukee Health Department, have been working diligently to urge people to stay at home in the interest of public health.

After weeks of encouraging residents to do the responsible thing and stay home when possible, it is clear that there are those who do not feel they need to abide by these orders. This has been on display recently in Brookfield when hundreds of protestors filled the streets, and with reports of business owners declaring they will re-open their businesses before it has been deemed safe to do so.

Now, with the Common Council approving a new ordinance, the commissioner of health and police officers have the ability to issue orders and citations to anyone who willfully violates or obstructs these public health orders. It was with the acts of this past weekend in mind I proposed the amendment that allows the city flexibility to enforce the “Safer-at-Home” orders as needed.

I hope this serves as a reminder that these orders are to be taken seriously, and I encourage everyone to do their part in defeating this virus not just for themselves, but for our entire community.

It is my hope that few arrests are made or citations are handed out, but for those who don’t think these orders apply to them it is time for there to be repercussions.

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