

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



---

FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 22, 2020

Ald. José G. Pérez  
(414) 286-2861

## **New citation option to help prevent spread of deadly coronavirus in Milwaukee**

Action yesterday (Tuesday, April 21) by the Common Council will allow Milwaukee Police and the Health Department to issue a citation up to \$500 in rare instances where individuals are deliberately violating the Safer at Home order that is in place in the city to help prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Alderman José G. Pérez** said the ordinance approved Tuesday by the full Common Council relates to enforcement of “communicable disease orders” and authorizes the Commissioner of Health and police officers “to issue orders and citations to any persons who willfully violate or obstruct the execution of an order” issued under city or state jurisdiction.

“Quite simply, this action does not affect the range of options and discretion for law enforcement for enforcing the ‘Safer At Home’ orders related to COVID-19,” Alderman Pérez said. “What it does is it allows a middle ground for citations to be issued.”

“If you are traveling to visit your parents or just heading to or from the store, or working in your yard, this will not impact you. But if you are attending a party or hanging out with a large group on the corner (non-essential activities), a citation could become an option for officers as you are clearly not abiding by the stay home order,” the alderman said.

“We want to emphasize the importance of educating the public about the stay home order, but where it is needed (in rare instances) there also must be an option for arrest and pursuing criminal charges when individuals are willfully violating the order,” he said.

-More-

## **Citation option /ADD ONE**

An amendment to the ordinance states, in part, that “the City of Milwaukee, in its efforts to ensure compliance with the State of Wisconsin’s ‘Safer At Home’ order, wishes to maintain a full range of enforcement options, from education to arrest.”

Please go to [city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus](http://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus) for more information (in English and Spanish) on COVID-19 and the Safer At Home (Stay Home Save Lives) order.

**-30-**