
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Common Council Approves Scooter Sales Requirements, Measure Seeking Doubling Of Speeding Fines In Some Cases

Council Also Approves Mayor's Choice to Lead City Lobbying Team, Plan to Use Federal Drug Seizure Money

The Common Council today unanimously approved a measure requiring businesses that sell motorized scooters to post signs informing potential buyers that the machines cannot be operated on public roadways, bicycle paths or public sidewalks in the city.

The motorized scooters, popular items at many auto supply stores and larger retail outlets, may only be operated in the City of Milwaukee with permission on private property. However, some motorized scooter riders stopped by police have claimed they were not aware that the scooters could not be operated on city streets and sidewalks. The ordinance approved today by the council not only places the "legal use" signage or notification requirement for businesses selling the scooters, it also requires the businesses to obtain – from every person buying a motorized scooter – a signed statement stating that the buyer is aware that motorized scooters cannot be operated in the city on streets, bike paths and sidewalks.

The motorized scooter ordinance was sponsored by Ald. Robert G. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, and co-sponsored by nine other aldermen. In other business Tuesday during its regular meeting in the Council Chamber at City Hall, the Common Council:

-More-

Council Action Tuesday – Feb. 1/ADD ONE

- Approved Mayor Tom Barrett’s appointment of Sharon Cook to serve as the legislative liaison director of the Intergovernmental Relations Division of the Department of Administration. Cook, a one-time city lobbyist who spent several years in governmental relations services with the Milwaukee law firm of Cook & Franke, succeeds Pat Curley, who now serves as Mayor Barrett’s chief of staff.
- Approved a Milwaukee Police Department plan to use money seized as part of drug cases under federal jurisdiction. The \$500,000 total includes funding for a firearm training program and money for the department’s mounted horse patrol and canine units.
- Approved a resolution asking the state to increase fines for speeding on Milwaukee streets. If approved, it would allow Milwaukee police to ticket speeders who are caught driving at speeds of 10 or more MPH over posted limits for double the current fine amount.
- Approved the detailed planned development for the renovation of the Kenilworth Building, located between N. Farwell Ave. and N. Prospect Ave. at E. Kenilworth Pl. The building, owned by the state and used by UW-Milwaukee, will undergo a massive, \$70 million renovation that will include improved space for the Peck School of the Arts, retail spaces on the first floor, a bicycle and pedestrian path connecting the building to the Oak Leaf Trail, 20-30 condominiums, some 300 market-style apartments for students (not dorm rooms), and new indoor parking. Construction is set to begin sometime this year with spaces available to students during 2006.