
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 11, 2006

Ald. Terry Witkowski
414 286-2221

It's Official: Fines For Littering Doubled

Ordinance Now Carries Stiffer Fines for Those Caught Not Keeping Milwaukee Clean

In Milwaukee, where city trash cans have been scribed with “Every Litter Bit Hurts,” it will soon hurt a little bit more in the pocketbook for people caught littering by Milwaukee police.

An ordinance that doubles the city’s fines for littering officially took effect today, according to Ald. Terry L. Witkowski, the measure’s primary sponsor. The ordinance was passed 13-1 by the Common Council on March 23, 2006.

Ald. Witkowski said the sheer volume of bottles, wrappers, fast food bags and containers and other trash discarded along Milwaukee streets is alarming to him. He said the increased fines could serve as a “pig tax” for individuals “who treat their property, our streets or their neighborhood as their own personal pig sty.” “It was important, I thought, to send a message that littering is something that is unacceptable and demeaning to our neighborhoods and to our citizens,” he said today.

The ordinance increased the penalties for littering from a minimum of \$25 to a minimum of \$50 for a first offense and from a minimum of \$50 to a minimum of \$100 for each subsequent offense.

In other sanitation-related news, the city-wide **Project Clean & Green** spring cleanup initiative is poised to get underway next week (April 17). The program targets one city “zone” each week through June 5 to remove bulky items and to beautify and improve the environment.

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Littering Fines Double/ADD ONE

To each zone the city assigns extra garbage packers, skid loaders, brush trucks, and street sweepers during the assigned week. Residents can also apply for free neighborhood trees and can enter the Mayor's Landscape Award contest.

Crews will not collect appliances, household hazardous waste (paints, insecticides, waste oils, etc.), more than five tires, construction material (plaster, roofing, lumber), or more than four cubic yards (about the size of two sofas).

Ald. Witkowski said his constituents – like other city residents – should receive details on the program in the mail this month. He said most of his 13th District will be featured in the **Zone 4** cleanup week (May 8-12), but if residents are unsure they can call the Department of Public Works' Call Center at (414) **286-8282**.

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