



May 8, 2007

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
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Junk Collector Or Thief? Signs Will Now Help ID Vehicles

Milwaukee residents should soon be able to know if the slow moving truck driving down their street or alley is a licensed junk collector.

The Milwaukee Common Council today approved a new city ordinance change requiring junk collectors and junk dealers subject to city licensing to place identifying signage on any motor vehicles they use in the line of work.

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski, the primary sponsor of the legislation, said the signs will be similar in size to those found on taxi cabs. "As it stands the city does license junk collectors but the only identifying 'sign' they display is a three-inch window sticker," the alderman said.

"We have people reporting suspicious vehicles to police because they see the drivers peering toward their yard or garage area while proceeding slowly. This change allows you to actually see a name, permit number and phone number to make it easier to identify junk collectors," he said.

The ordinance will require that identifying signs be placed on both sides of the vehicle and that the lettering be three or more inches high. Currently there are more than 40 junk collector vehicles licensed by the city.

Council cosponsors of the ordinance are Ald. Jim Bohl, Ald. Tony Zielinski, Ald. Bob Donovan and Ald. Robert J. Bauman.

The ordinance is expected to be signed by Mayor Tom Barrett and would go into effect on or about July 1, 2007.