



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 11/21/2019
Common Council Item Number: 19-1507	Date: Click here to enter a date.
Submitted By: Fred Abadi- Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
Finance Department Review: Denise Vandebush-Kohlmann, Acting Finance Director DVK	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Approval to Repeal Ordinance 31.16 Baby Strollers and Refer to Ordinance and License Committee	

Details:
 This item is to seek the approval of the repeal of Ordinance 31.16 Baby Strollers and refer this item to the Ordinance and License Committee for consideration. The Baby Stroller ordinance was enacted in 2002 with the intent to ensure that the bus aisle was clear and that small children can be safely transported on Waukesha Metro buses. The intentions of the ordinance are still applicable, however, the ordinance itself is no longer practical and in some cases may actually be less safe for passengers travelling with multiple small children.

The ordinance requires that small children be removed from their stroller prior to boarding. This is no longer required 18 years later as all fixed route buses have ramps that can easily be deployed and the passenger can board with the children in the stroller without issue. In most cases, it is safer to have the passengers board with the child(ren) in the stroller vs. requiring the children be removed prior to boarding. The passenger has to board the bus with a child(ren) in hand and bring the stroller aboard all while paying their fare. This makes the boarding process much slower and creates a potential safety issue and frustration for the boarding passenger(s).

The ordinance also mandates that children are required to be not ride the bus in the stroller and the stroller be stowed out of the aisle. This may be practical for an adult passenger travelling with a single child but presents a problem for passengers travelling with multiple children who either have to hold a child in each arm, have them sit in a seat or ask a fellow passenger to hold one of the children. The ordinance is too restrictive and is not practical anymore. The intentions of keeping the aisle clear and small children safe can be accomplished with a flexible common sense policy vs. mandatory ordinance.

Transit Mutual Insurance (TMI) which provides bus liability insurance coverage to the City and most all other transit systems in Wisconsin does not mandate a stroller ordinance nor require certain language in a stroller policy. TMI has stated that stroller policies should be practical with the end result of enhancing the safety of the young children riding and keeping the aisle clear. No other TMI property has a stroller ordinance but instead have stroller policies that allows for some flexibility. The Transit Commission staff has drafted a stroller policy that staff would seek to receive approval of if the ordinance was repealed.



Options & Alternatives:

The alternative would be to do nothing and leave the Baby Stroller Ordinance in place.

Financial Remarks:

There is no financial impact from this change.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.