



Wauwatosa Police Department

DATE: June 8, 2023

TO: Transportation Affairs Committee – date of meeting

FROM: Capt. Luke Vetter, Sgt. Kurt Svatek

SUBJECT: 6/13 TAC Meeting - Proposal to Adopt WI Trans 305 Statute for Enforcement of Equipment Violations

Officers of the Wauwatosa Police Department need your help. There are specific traffic laws contained within Wisconsin State Statute Trans 305 that govern the equipment of motor vehicles. This section deals with everything from having a properly operating vehicle horn to the type of lights that are allowed on vehicles. All these equipment laws are important to keep roadways safe, but our traffic ordinances do NOT currently adopt this section of traffic law.

There are two specific subsections of Trans 305 that are especially important for our officers to be able to enforce. An adoption of this statute under ordinance 11.04.020 would directly support their safety and the safety of the motoring public.

Excessive, illegal window tinting is very popular on vehicles and our officers currently have no way to enforce these violations and change behavior.

305.34 – prohibits the tinting of a windshield below the “A” line on the windshield, which is about 5-6 inches below the top of the windshield.

305.32 – restricts window tinting to the passage of 50% of visible light through the front windows of a vehicle and the passage of 35% of visible light through the rear windows and rear windshield

Officers that conduct traffic stops, especially at night, often cannot see into the vehicle they are approaching. Consistent enforcement of this law will also eventually allow citizens, businesses and officers to better identify vehicle occupants in criminal matters.

Enforcement of existing window tint will also increase safety for all people on the roadways: drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. It is often important for all the parties on a roadway to see each other, make eye contact, and then be able to safely proceed.

The equipment to train officers and test windows can be acquired for under \$500.00 and the Department has funds available for this purchase. All Officers will be required to complete the training before taking enforcement action.

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Our Public Information Officer would also take a proactive approach and message to the community the laws to educate them, in hopes of voluntary compliance, and that we will be enforcing violations as well.

The Police Department respectfully asks for the adoption of this long existing State Law under our current traffic ordinance structure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Vetter", written in a cursive style.

Capt. Luke Vetter
Patrol Bureau
