



Council President McNamara to announce convenience store litigation settlement

Proposed settlement brings businesses and neighborhoods together

Media Advisory

Contact: Joe McNamara, 419.509.6887

Toledo, OH – In December of 2007, Toledo City Council passed an ordinance that required convenience stores to be licensed. Council acted to curb the numerous complaints that arose from some convenience stores that were poorly maintained, noisy and facilitated criminal activity –all issues that negatively affected Toledo’s neighborhoods.

In early 2008, a group of locally-owned convenience stores formed the Midwest Retailers Association and challenged the constitutionality of this law in federal court. After months of legal proceedings and one Council amendment to the licensing ordinance, an omnibus settlement agreement has tentatively been agreed upon by the parties.

The proposed settlement agreement, which would need to be approved by Council, repeals the licensing ordinance. In exchange, the Midwest Retailers Association agrees to do the following:

- Adopt a code of ethical business practices for its member that includes:
 - a. banning the sale of items commonly used as drug paraphernalia,
 - b. establishing a zero-tolerance loitering policy
 - c. keeping stores clean and well-maintained
 - d. not generating any undue noise
 - e. selling healthy items like milk, fruit and vegetables
- Encourage store representatives to attend Block Watch meetings
- Develop a plan for a coordinated security patrol of member stores consisting of off-duty and laid-off police officers
- Meet quarterly with representatives of the Community Development Corporation alliance to review the relationship between the stores and their neighborhoods.
- Waive any additional attorney fee or damage awards.

“This is a great compromise that addresses the issues facing neighborhoods as well as keeping Toledo business friendly” explained Council President Joe McNamara.

“Members of the Midwest Retailers Association are committed to being positive influences in Toledo’s neighborhoods. We are excited to be in partnership with the City and the neighborhood groups” said Nabil Shaheen, President of the organization.

“Our original goal was to reestablish spacing requirements and this settlement agreement helps accomplish that goal” said Terry Glazer, CEO of United North.

A press conference with members of Council, store owners, and neighborhood groups will be held to elaborate on the terms of the proposed settlement agreement.

Who: Members of Toledo City Council, Members of the Midwest Retailers Association, Members of the Community Development Corporations.

What: Press conference describing proposed settlement to convenience store litigation.

Where: Stop-and-Go at 3841 Airport Highway (near Angola).

When: Thursday, July 16, 2009, 1:30 P.M.

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