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To Stoughton Public Safety Committee

From Rick Manthe and Matt Dregne

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Re Youth Entertainment Center Ordinance Considerations

The City of Stoughton does not currently have an ordinance that regulates Youth Entertainment Centers. A Youth Entertainment Center is similar to a dance club, but the target audience is teenagers and young adults, and alcohol is typically prohibited on premises. Below is an outline of potential policy considerations that have been included in ordinances used by other municipalities to regulate Youth Entertainment Centers. The outline is meant only to serve as a guide that the Public Safety Committee could use in determining what it would like a Youth Entertainment Center ordinance to accomplish. There may be elements that the PSC does not wish to include. The outline is also non-exhaustive, meaning the PSC may determine that additional elements are necessary.

1. Required components of an application.
    a. Information relevant to the applicant.
        i. Minimum age of applicant.
        ii. Listing of prior criminal convictions.
            1. Criminal history considerations must comply with chapter 101 of Wisconsin Statutes.
        iii. Additional information may be required for corporations.
            1. Officers.
            2. Owners.
            3. Place of incorporation.
    b. Proposed days and hours of operation.
    c. Description of business activities.
    d. Location.
    e. Expected crowd sizes.
    f. Building/floor plan.
2. Requirements that will be applicable to license holders.
    a. Types of activities the license applies to and permits.

        i. Dancing.
        ii. Music.
        iii. Arcades.
        iv. Other types of “youth” amusement.
    b. Types of prohibited activities:
        i. Any alcohol consumption.
    c. Establishing maximum hours of operation.
        i. School night versus weekend hours.
        ii. Restrictions of activities during school hours.
    d. Restrictions on various age groups (e.g. cannot have persons younger than 16 years old).
    e. Permit police entry for compliance inspections.
    f. Require that licensees maintain good order.
    g. Licensees must comply with all state, county, and local laws and orders.
3. Other considerations.
    a. Suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal procedures.
        i. Similar to alcohol procedures?
        ii. Grounds for revocation/suspension/nonrenewal.
            1. Not maintaining good order.
            2. Allowing alcohol on premises.
            3. Owners/licensee convicted of certain crimes.
    b. Points system for violations (similar to liquor licenses)
    c. Who approves the license (PSC or Common Council)?
    d. Licensing period (1, 2, 3 years).
    e. Grounds for denial.
        i. Framed as a legislative decision?
        ii. Specific requirements with little discretion?