



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Regulatory Services**

Date: April 4, 2002

To: CM Joe Biernat, Chair of Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee

Subject: Amendments to Chapter 259 regarding shopping Carts

Recommendation:

That action be taken to approve the proposed amendments to the shopping cart ordinance requiring locking mechanisms on carts allowed to be removed from the premises by customers when stores are located within ½ mile of a light rail station and eliminating the minimum forty carts for applicability for the required plan.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared or Submitted by: Clara Schmit-Gonzalez, Deputy Director
Licenses and Consumer Services 673-3851

Approved by: _____
James Moncur, Director
Licenses and Consumer Services

Presenters in Committee: Council Member Schiff
Clara Schmit-Gonzalez, Deputy Director
Licenses and Consumer Services

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

NA No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

Action requires use of contingency or reserves

Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals Comprehensive Plan Zoning Code Other
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Background/Supporting Information

These amendments are being proposed for two reasons. One is to ensure the safety and integrity of light rail passengers, stations and equipment. Elevators at Hiawatha and Lake St. will take people directly to the rail level. In order to accommodate those with wheel chair needs, no barriers can be erected to prevent carts from being taken into the elevator and subsequently, potentially winding up on the rail line. This is the reason for the requirement for locking mechanisms in 259.240 (c).

The changes in the remainder of the document relate to the fact that enforcement experience over the past several years has indicated that smaller stores with fewer than forty carts were a significant problem also. Therefore, the plan requirement has been extended to all stores which allow carts to leave their premises. We have also found the ½ mile search area to be too small in many instances and so are requesting the ability to extend that where needed.