

#3-R-19
Repealing the Truancy Ordinance

March 20, 2019

Submitted By: Alderperson William J. Siebers, District 1

Referred To: Safety & Licensing Committee

Whereas, the City of Appleton has through the City Attorney's office and the Appleton Police Department, been a partner with the school district in addressing truancy issues and,

Whereas, the City's authority to deal with truancy issues is outlined in Section 10-42 of the City Code and is referenced by Wisconsin State Statute chapter 118, and at times is done by punitive means,

Whereas, the Honorable James Morrison – Chief Judge of the 8th Judicial District – in his letter dated January 3, 2019 to the Appleton Area School District administration, announcing that judges in the 8th Judicial District would no longer be a part of the truancy court, stated that preventing truancy is fundamentally the responsibility of educational officers and best handled by the school district and,

Whereas, the Appleton Area School District would retain the ability to issue truancy citations under state law where city ordinance Section 10-42 is repealed and,

Whereas, truants in a national student truancy survey cited boredom, loss of interest in school, irrelevant courses, suspensions, bad relationships with teachers, struggles academically, not having friends who are attending school regularly, seeing no reason for attending school, and feeling socially isolated in school for not attending classes and most educators believing that family problems cause chronic truancy and,

Whereas, the fact that the School District and Human Social Services can deal with these issues without punitive measures, which are asked to be carried out by the Police Department and City Attorney's office,

Therefore Be It Resolved, that City Ordinance Section 10-42, dealing with truancy be repealed.