



city of ....  
**South  
Milwaukee**

**Police Department**  
**ANN M. WELLENS**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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May 6, 2009

RE: Open Carry Firearm Possession on Private Property

Dear South Milwaukee Business Owner:

Recently Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen issued a memorandum stating it is legal for people to openly carry firearms. While the Attorney General advised citizens that it is legal to carry firearms in plain view in public, there are circumstances when possession of firearms is illegal - notably when they are carried concealed; carried in a public building; carried in places where alcohol beverages are consumed; when the person carrying the firearm is a convicted felon; when possessed by a person under the age of 18; and when possessed in a gun-free school zone.

In addition, **private business owners have the ability to prohibit the open carrying of firearms by patrons.** If you, as a business owner do not want people on your private property carrying firearms, you may post signage indicating this position. The sign must be legibly and prominently posted at the entrance(s) to your building giving notice that no firearms are allowed in your establishment. Even without a sign, you may tell a patron who enters with a firearm to leave immediately. If a person enters your property or refuses to leave in violation of the advisement, the person may be arrested or cited by the South Milwaukee Police Department for disorderly conduct.

The South Milwaukee Legislation & Permits Committee is currently working on an ordinance to address business owners rights in reference to this issue.

Sincerely,

Chief Ann M. Wellens  
South Milwaukee Police Department