

06-2485

90-DAY MORATORIUM FOR PAWNBROKER BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, the City of Racine currently has no licensed pawnbrokers; and

WHEREAS, current ordinances concerning pawnbrokers were last updated 15 years ago and still require written paper and ink records; and

WHEREAS, the services offered by pawnbrokers provide an opportunity for individuals to readily transfer stolen property to those businesses; and

WHEREAS, tracking pawnbroker transactions and investigating claims of stolen property could increase the workload of the Racine Police Department and increase the financial burden to all property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, pawnbrokers charge as much as 60% for what is in essence a collateralized loan and consumer protection regulation is warranted in transactions involving these businesses; and

WHEREAS, the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Racine should be protected by legislation restricting the location and record keeping requirements of such businesses and establishing consumer protections pursuant to the authority granted by s. 134.71, Wis. Stats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Racine hereby imposes a 90 day moratorium upon the granting of any occupancy permit for a pawnbroker business or pawnbroker's license to provide time for the Common Council to develop and implement ordinances containing appropriate restrictions for the establishment of such businesses.