

## City of West Allis Matter Summary

7525 W. Greenfield Ave. West Allis, WI 53214

File Numb	er Title	Title			Status			
2008-02	20 Con	nmunication	In Committee					
Chief of Police communication regarding Community Alliance Against Drugs liability issues of their members.								
	Intro	Introduced: 4/14/2008		Controlling Body: Administration & Finance Committee				
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Chair Vice-Chair				Member				
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## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Dean Puschnig Chief of Police

414/302-8000 414/302-8099 (Fax) TTY 414/302-8000 (Hit Space Bar)

> Police Department 11301 West Lincoln Avenue West Allis, Wisconsin 53227

> > www.ci.west-allis.wi.us

April 6, 2008

Honorable Mayor Bell and Members of the Common Council West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

Dear Mayor Bell and Members of the Council:

The Mission of Community Alliance Against Drugs is to provide educational and recreational programs to deter substance abuse. The annual programs sponsored by CAAD include a New Years Eve Family Activity night, family pizza, movie and activity nights, parents night out programs, and post-prom parties. CAAD sponsors eight to ten programs annually, which are attended by approximately 3,000 people.

Since 1993, CAAD has been an integral partner in working with the West Allis Police Department. Over the years, the Department received many state and federal grants based upon our enforcement efforts and our community policing programs some of which were sponsored by CAAD. The agencies that approved these grants were obviously very impressed with these programs and the community partnership we developed with CAAD. These grants include: Weed and Seed, Juvenile Justice, Neighborhood Drug Use and Violence Prevention and Brighter Futures. I estimated these grants have total approximately \$1,650,000.

CAAD has it's own tax exempt (501-C3) status. There are approximately 10 members of the Board of Directors who volunteer their time for this organization. The Board determines what programs to offer and employees of the Police Department organize these events. We partner with the School District in this community policing initiative. All programs are held at the schools, the schools pay for staff time and printing, while the Police Department pays for postage, materials and organizational time.

Recently the CAAD Board expressed concerns over potential liability issues they may face personally as a member of the Board should a serious injury occur at one of these events. After organizing the programs Police Department staff then arranges for numerous volunteers to ensure these programs are successful. Three Board members are Department employees including myself, our Crime Prevention Supervisor and our Crime Prevention Secretary. Many of the other CAAD Board Members are also Neighborhood Watch Block Captains and assist with other crime prevention efforts such as National Night Out. The CAAD Board members who are not Department employees should be viewed as volunteers of the Police Department and exempt from all liability issues.

Because of the importance of these programs in helping to improve our community policing efforts and obtain grant funding, I respectfully request the city assume the liability for these programs.

Sincerely,

Dean Puschnig Chief of Police

cc Police and Fire Commission Scott Post Paul Ziehler

