



ACLU

**AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of MICHIGAN**

**American Civil
Liberties Union**

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July 31, 2008

City Clerk Michael Mizzi
City of Allen Park Municipal Offices
16850 Southfield Rd.
Allen Park, MI 48101

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL
AND FACSIMILE

Dear Clerk Mizzi

We are writing to correct any misunderstanding of the new voter identification law. It has come to our attention that the Summer 2008 edition of the City of Allen Park News contains a statement that state law now requires the presentation of photo identification when voting (see attached article).

The statement in your newsletter is misleading and could deter eligible voters from exercising their fundamental right to vote. In fact, the recent picture identification voting law, MCL 168.523, does not require that all voters provide photo identification in order to vote. Registered voters who do not have photo identification -- or who do not bring photo identification with them -- may vote if they simply sign a form stating that they do not have acceptable photo ID with them.

The following may be found under "A Guide to Identification at the Polls" on the Michigan Secretary of State website:

Voting Without Photo ID

If you do not have photo ID, you can still cast a ballot simply by signing an affidavit. The affidavit can be used by:

- **Voters who do not have acceptable photo ID**
- **Voters who have photo ID but didn't bring it to the polls**

Once you sign the affidavit, you may cast your ballot. It will be counted with all other ballots on Election Day.

Staff

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Representative**

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See http://michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-15719_15730-178123--,00.html.

According to Secretary of State Land, 370,000 of Michigan's seven million registered voters possess neither a driver's license nor a state identification card. Several studies, including a 2001 report from the National Commission on Federal Election Reform, indicate that minorities, seniors, and with disabilities disproportionately lack photo ID compared to the majority population.* We are certain you would agree on the importance of full enfranchisement of these communities.

We do not believe that your office intended to discourage registered voters without photo ID from going to the polls on Election Day. We are concerned, however, that the Clerk's Office may not fully understand the affidavit option and the ease with which voters without photo ID may vote by signing the affidavit.

In a call to your office earlier this week, our caller was not told about the affidavit option for voters without photo ID until she pressed for what to do if a voter does not have photo identification. When she was finally told about the affidavit option, it came with the warning that utilizing the affidavit is "much more involved." In fact, signing the affidavit should take no longer than to check a photo ID. The Secretary of State is providing reproducible forms with the affidavit on the back of the voter application.

Please help us to educate the public that under the new photo ID law, those who do not own photo ID and those who do not bring photo ID with them to the polls may, in fact, cast a vote and that the vote will count. To raise awareness and to counter the misperception caused by the newsletter article, the ACLU encourages you to do the following:

- Place the corrected information on the homepage of the City of Allen Park website
- Ensure that all poll workers receive training on the ability of individuals without photo ID with them to vote by using the affidavit form
- Widely publicize the fact that individuals without acceptable ID may vote with or without photo ID both before the August 5 primary and before the November 4 election, including an article containing this information in

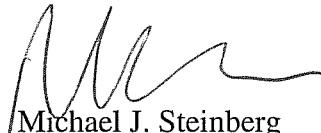
the City of Allen Park News before the November election and in all local publications.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Mary A. Bejian
Deputy Director
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Michael J. Steinberg
Legal Director

cc: Sue Ashcraft, Deputy Election Clerk
Mayor Gary J. Burtka

encl.

* John Mark Hansen, Coordinator, Task Force on the Federal Election System, Report, at VI-4 in Task Force Reports to Accompany the Report of the National Commission on Election Reform (Aug. 2001); National Commission on Election Reform, To Assure Pride and Confidence in the Electoral Process, at 32 (Aug. 2001).

City Departments

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Allen Park Municipal Building, 16850 Southfield. The Council Meetings are also shown on cable channel 12 (Comcast) or channel 10 (WOW) Monday – Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

BLOCK PARTIES

Block party permits can now be obtained through the City Clerk's Office. City Council approval of the party is no longer necessary. The application must be submitted no less than two weeks before the date of the party. 90% approval of the block is required.

CAT & DOG LICENSES

Allen Park Ordinance requires all dogs and cats in the City of Allen Park to be licensed. Homeowners with unlicensed animals can be ticketed. License tags can be purchased to be valid until the year the rabies vaccination expires. The price range is \$5.00 to \$15.00 and \$1.50 to \$4.50 for senior citizens. Please bring a copy of the rabies vaccination paperwork. A maximum of three pets are allowed per household.

GARAGE SALE PERMITS

A permit is required to hold a garage sale in Allen Park. The permit can be obtained at a cost of \$10.00 and is good for up to five (5) consecutive days. Each household may have up to two (2) sales per year. Signs advertising garage sales are not allowed on public property, including light poles, right-of-ways, or the area of your yard between the sidewalk and the curb.

SOLICITATION

All door to door direct sellers and handbill distributors must be licensed by the City. These solicitors must receive City Council approval before they can receive a license. We encourage all citizens to ask to see a direct seller or handbill distributors' City issued license before interacting with them. "No Solicitation" signs are available in the Clerk's Office free of charge.

NOT SURE IF YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE??? FIND OUT BY VISITING

<http://www.michigan.gov/vote>

ABSENTEE VOTING

Any registered voter who is over the age of 60 or who is physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another is eligible to be placed on our permanent absentee voter list. Registered voters on this list automatically receive an application for an absentee ballot in the mail before every election. The Clerk's Office is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Saturday before every election for last minute absentee ballot requests.

STATE LAW NOW REQUIRES THAT YOU SHOW PHOTO ID. WHEN VOTING AT THE POLLS.

2008 ELECTION DATES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008- STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008- GENERAL ELECTION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

(313) 928-0550

STREET SWEEPING

Street sweeping has resumed as of April 2008. We will be sweeping on a three week rotation. No sweeping will occur during Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day week (Monday Holiday's). Please do not place trash in the street as it hinders the operation.

IMPORTANT RULES REGARDING RUBBISH CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES

Please be aware that our rubbish hauling contractor employees are not allowed to solicit money from our homeowners for any reason. If anyone from Republic Waste asks or demands money from you for rubbish pickup please call (313) 928-0550 or the Allen Park Police @ (313) 386-7800 immediately. If you have any items that are not picked up under normal conditions please call for a special pickup as we have crews available for this purpose.

STREETLIGHT OUTAGES

Please report all street light outages to this department so we can notify DTE, or feel free to contact them direct at 1 800 477-4747. Please allow at least 14 days for them to repair the problem before making a second call to our office.

BRUSH PICKUP

Brush must be cut and tied in bundles no larger than 18" X 48" in order for them to be picked up at no charge. Larger volumes of unbundled brush will be assessed a special pickup fee starting with a minimum of \$10.00.

TREE TRIM/REMOVAL PROCEDURES

The Department of Public Services has jurisdiction over all trees that are on the public easement between the sidewalk and curb. You may call our office to have these trees trimmed or evaluated for removal. We have a policy NOT to remove a healthy tree unless it poses a health or safety hazard to the community. Trees are not normally removed because of the sidewalk safety replacement program. Please call our office if you would like the tree evaluated for removal. In order to plant a tree in front of your home you must obtain permission from this department as we have tree species that are unacceptable. We do not have a tree replacement program at this time.

COMPOST SEASON

Compost season began on March 31, 2008 and continues through December. Please remember that we no longer accept compost that is in plastic bags. Please keep the containers and paper bags below the maximum weight of 50 pounds or it will not be picked up by the contractor. Remember that compost cannot be mixed with trash.

RECYCLING

Used Oil and Automotive batteries can be recycled and brought to the DPS yard at 16125 White Street, Monday through Friday, during the hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm.

FLOWERBED ADOPTION

This year's sixth annual adopt-a-flowerbed has truly grown into a success for Allen Park. The Department of Public Service would like to say thanks to all the supporters. What better way to show recognition or honor our loved ones than through flowers. Call our office for more information or e-mail cmcdonnell@cityofallenpark.org. We would also like to thank the 24th District Court for their participation and help in this program. .