



MTPD Reorganization / Kohl's to Open

At the second City Council meeting of the month of June, a major step was officially taken in resolving issues at the Manitowoc Police Department that had led to total disruption for the organization.

The process for the action had actually gotten underway immediately after Tony Dick, then Deputy Chief, was appointed Interim Acting Chief. In our first meeting after Tony's appointment, I asked the Acting Chief to enter into discussions with the union and the rest of the department to analyze the problems that existed and reorganize the department into a functional unit.

It took months of time to reestablish trust, but the officers and administration immediately began to work toward a common goal, that being the well-being and safety of our citizens and our officers.

The adoption of the reorganization of the Manitowoc Police Department on a close vote of the Council, with the Mayor voting for the plan, underscored months of cooperative efforts by the Professional Police Union representing our officers, Acting Interim Chief Dick, Deputy Chief Bridget Brennan, and all the police supervisors. We thank everybody involved with this process and we are excited to see the organization coming together so well after such a difficult period.

In order that such a "perfect storm" of working conditions, tolerance to untruth, and retaliation never again exist in our PD, an alteration to the way we do business as a city is needed. We have for far too long functioned without a true Human Resources Department in our City government. We have over 400 employees, yet we currently add the burden of responsibility for personnel onto the workload of the City Attorney, aided by a Personnel Coordinator.

A proposal for establishing a Human Resources Department has been reviewed and forwarded to the Personnel and Finance Committees and I believe it has been received rather well by both groups.

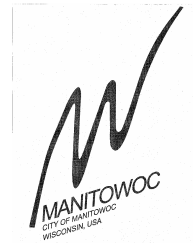
It is my intention to include funding for this alteration to the way we do business as a local government in my Executive Budget when it is forwarded to the City council this fall. As always, both the reorganization of the Police Department and instituting this new City Department will be accomplished while at the same time keeping our property taxes the lowest in our state.

In 1999, after the County Board of Supervisors turned down a transaction that would have allowed a 500,000 square foot enclosed mall to be built on the site that then was home to the Manitowoc County Health Care Center, the City contracted with Leede Research Company to survey our community.

The survey was intended to discover just how much retail "leakage" occurred annually with our "retail" spending dollars at home. Retail "leakage" refers to the amount of dollars citizens of Manitowoc spend outside of our county each year in shopping areas like Green Bay, Appleton and Sheboygan.

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We discovered that nine years ago, more than 100 million “real” dollars were spent in other shopping destinations each year, with “real” meaning not factored, but actual dollars.

We also discovered that the store most coveted by the women of our area was Kohls.

The results of the survey were the impetus behind our continued efforts that ultimately resulted in Harbor Town and now the soon opening Kohls store.

If you take a look at the signage for Kohls at Harbor Town, you’ll note that the store’s “soft” opening is scheduled for September 28th ...and we are all truly excited about that fact.

We hope that Kohls and Harbor Town are the nucleus of an irresistible force that keeps our shopping dollars right here at home. Multiply their attraction by the cost of gas at \$4.00 per gallon and we are sure to recover most of the 100 million dollars, multiplied by time and CPI that we were losing in ’99.

Add to this the addition of a Main Street designation for our city’s downtown and one can see that our marketplace is rising to a whole new level of growth and productivity.

We truly appreciate the cooperation of recent “standing” County Boards in our efforts to further economic development in all sectors of our economy, not only retail, but manufacturing, tourism and agriculture.

Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.