

November 2, 2016

Dear, Committee Members of the Council;

My name is Greg Knipp and I am a 36 year member of the Manitowoc Marine Band and currently hold the position of President/CEO of the organization. It has been brought to my attention that there has been a request for monies in the 2017 City budget to be allocated towards the purchase of a new portable band shell.

The portable band shell used today has been a home for many of our performances throughout the years, in fact Chuck Peronto, an active 60 plus year member of the band, was instrumental in the purchase of the this original unit back in the early 60's. To this day our organization uses it for the Fourth on the Shore Celebration, Subfest and Showtime on the River. The very fact of the matter is that it is old, tired and is on the verge of being unsafe. The upper main floor is very weak and at times flexes so much that equipment tips. The lighting is terrible and will not work especially if larger amps or certain sound equipment are plugged into the trailer. It is difficult to get equipment and people on safely especially the elder musicians. Besides this, it is a very laborious and back breaking task for the City Parks Crew to level and set up.

I, on behalf of the Manitowoc Marine Band, would like to say that we are very much in favor of the purchase a new portable unit and ask you, the committee members, to please vote in favor of doing so as well. Should you have any further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be glad to help.

Thank you so much for your consideration to this request.

Respectfully submitted;



Gregory A. Knipp, Manitowoc Marine Band President/CEO

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