

Jessie Lillibridge

From: Jacob Gardner
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2018 2:53 PM
To: Jessie Lillibridge
Subject: Committee Meeting: Housing letter

Dear Manitowoc City Committee,

My name is Jake Gardner and I have worked for the city of Manitowoc for approximately one year as a police officer. I'm enjoying my career in law enforcement, and I'm still learning new things about the city and the community of Manitowoc. I'm writing to you in hopes of allowing me to live outside of the residency described in the WPPA contract. Per the contract described to me, Manitowoc officers are required to live within a 25 mile distance as a crow flies. This range extends north approximately a few miles passed Denmark if you were to drive northbound on I-43. I'm requesting an extension of roughly five to ten miles in order to purchase a home in the southeastern portion of Bellevue, Green Bay.

I currently live with my girlfriend of eight years named Bryanna. Bryanna currently works at Aurora Bay Care in Green Bay as a surgical tech. Bryanna also works a second job at Ellipse as a fitness coach. Bryanna works early morning shifts at Ellipse and is on-call at Aurora every Wednesday and every third weekend. Needless to say we have been working on our options for housing and potentially picking the location that works best for raising our family moving forward. If we were to move outside of Green Bay, Bryanna would not be able to work her second job which would net us a loss of \$5,000-\$7,000 annually depending on her hours.

Bryanna and I have put in offers on four houses within the Manitowoc City limits. Unfortunately, due to the crazy housing market we did not have an accepted offer. Currently houses are selling at a much higher mark up and it makes buying extremely difficult. We are potentially looking at houses in Green Bay as another option, however, we are not willing to make an important purchase without the approval of the council's permission.

For Reference: A property we were interested in, 2616 Ontario Road, Green Bay, WI 54311, is 32.6 miles from the police department by vehicle according to MapQuest. The property would be approximately 30.3 miles in distance as a crow flies. From 2616 Ontario Road to 910 Jay Street it took me approximately 29-32 minutes after five different attempts. Our goal is to find a property that we can afford that is close to highway 43 to allow easy and fast access for me to drive into work. The Ontario property was used as a point of reference, but would be a property that fits in the five to ten mile extension of the residency requirement.

Extension at quick glance:

1. More opportunity in the housing market.
2. Allows for secondary income
3. Green Bay's housing market allows for purchase of more house at a lower cost per square footage
4. Property would be close to I-43 allowing a quick commute to work
5. I take pride in being to work early which, eliminates time crunches. I'm one of the first officers in and one of the last to leave.
6. I-43 is a well maintained highway. During the snowpocalypse of 2018 in April, I-43 was salted and plowed, allowing easy and safe access during a bad snowstorm.
7. Both Bryanna and my parent's live near Green Bay which allows us options with childcare.

In closing, I would ask you to allow Bryanna and I the opportunity to live outside of the contract residency requirements (Approximately five to ten miles). I realize that with permission from the council, I would be an example to other officers in the future and I would not abuse my opportunity. I believe my strong work ethic and commitment to Manitowoc shows I'm willing to put in the extra time required to commute without it effecting my work. I thank you all for taking the time to listen to my story.

Sincerely,

Officer/219: Jake Gardner