



Mayor Vandersteen Testifying in Support of Tax Fairness

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For More Information Contact: Mike Vandersteen, City of Sheboygan, 920-207-2410

Madison – Mayor Vandersteen is testifying today in support of legislation that would close the Dark Store Loophole and bring fairness back to the tax system. Sheboygan is joining city, village and county leaders from across Wisconsin who are concerned about the potential shift in property taxes to residential and other taxpayers if the proposed legislation is not enacted.

“In the last seven years \$1,529,219 in Property tax that should have been paid by Memorial Mall and Walgreens in Sheboygan was shifted to residential and small business owners in our community. The Bills that are being considered by the State Legislature can correct this growing problem; I’m in Madison today to stress the importance of closing this loophole.”

According to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, residential property taxpayers pay 68% of the property tax statewide. Without this legislation, homeowners and other taxpayers will pick up more of the costs as large retailers take advantage of the loophole.

The Assembly Ways and Means Committee will hear testimony on Assembly Bill 386, the Dark Store Bill and on Assembly Bill 387, reversing the *Walgreens v. City of Madison* decision. Both bills close loopholes that some large retailers have been taking advantage of to significantly lower their property tax assessments. State Representative Rob Brooks, (R-Saukville) is the Assembly author of both bills. Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) is the Senate author of the Dark Store bill and Senator Roger Roth (R-Appleton) is the author of the Walgreens reversal bill.

Sheboygan is a member of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, founded in 1898. The League provides advocacy, legal services and training for Wisconsin’s cities and villages.