



Department of Public Works

Ghassan Korban, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

**The City of Milwaukee Warns BIRD Motorized Scooter Users:
Scooters are Illegal to Use on Milwaukee Streets and Sidewalks**
Operators of motorized scooters are subject to a \$98.80 fine

On Wednesday, June 27, 2018 BIRD introduced their motorized scooters on City of Milwaukee streets and sidewalks, particularly in the Downtown area. This action was done without any notice to the City.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) received several inquiries as to the legality of these motorized scooters on City rights of way, and if permits to operate them were required and/or granted.

DPW consulted with the City Attorney's Office on this matter and shares this response:

BIRD's Motorized Scooters MAY NOT be lawfully operated on any public street or sidewalk in the City of Milwaukee. Whether defined as a vehicle (Wis. Stat. Sec. 340.01(35)), motor vehicle (Wis. Stat. Sec. 340.01(35)) or a play vehicle (Wis. Stat. Sec. 340.01(43m)), under no circumstances may motorized scooters operate on a public street because they are not designed for on-street use. If motorized scooters were designed for on-street use, they would be subject to federal safety standards and manufacturer certifications. Further, regulations pertaining to operation of motor vehicles apply equally on sidewalks and streets as both are part of the public highway right-of-way.

Consequently, any operator of a BIRD motor scooter on a city street or sidewalk is subject to a \$98.80 citation for Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle upon a Highway contrary to Wis. Stat. Sec. 341.04(1).

Before making a decision to use a BIRD motorized scooter in the City of Milwaukee, the public should be aware that in doing so, both state and local laws will be broken. As such, a \$98.80 fine will be imposed.

###

