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 Milwaukee County

## West Allis mayor to veto pit bull ban

By [Tom Kertscher](#) of the Journal Sentinel

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West Allis Mayor Dan Devine said today he will veto an ordinance, apparently the first of its kind in the Milwaukee area, that would have banned pit bulls in the city.

Devine said he would issue the veto before a deadline of 5 p.m. today.

The ordinance, which has not gone into effect, was approved by the Common Council on Dec. 2. The tally was 9-0, with one alderman not voting.

The ordinance would have allowed pit bulls already in West Allis to remain in the city, under certain restrictions. But no new pit bulls would have been allowed.

Devine said he has received more than 50 calls and e-mails about the ordinance, most opposing it. He said he was not aware of any other pit bull bans in the metro area.

Some communities, including Cudahy, impose restrictions on pit bulls.

"Public safety, yes," Devine said, "I just think this is a questionable approach."

The alderman who proposed the ordinance, Vincent Vitale, could not be reached for comment.

Devine said another ordinance, proposed by Ald. Michael Czaplewski, has been in the works for months and would address vicious behavior of all dogs. He said he expects work on that ordinance to be expedited so that it could be presented to the Common Council this month or next.

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