



## Safe & Sound Alley Identification Initiatives

### What is an Alley Identification Project?

Safe & Sound Community Partners have collaborated with a variety of groups to affix reflective numbers on garages and homes visible from the alley. This is an effort to improve the ability of the police and fire services to respond, as well as city services, such as garbage and neighborhood housing inspectors. This is a City of Milwaukee City Code Sec. 275-11, and applies to all properties. It is a great way for the community to do something lasting that adds to the safety of the neighborhood. To date, over 300 city blocks have been numbered with the help of Safe Place youth, community service workers and block clubs.

### How does the project work?

Typically, a garage numbering effort takes 3 to 4 people, but can be conducted with more. The weather must be at least 50 degrees and dry for the numbers to stick. First, we select an area and acquire a rough estimate of how many numbers needed. For example, starting on the 1100 block and going to the 1900 will require lots of ones and zeros. Other materials include dry wipe rags and possibly a step stool. There is an alley identification project flyer available in English and Spanish that is placed on the front door of each home you affix numbers.

There are several ways to attack the project. You can go out beforehand and write down all of the numbers needed, you can use a map listing addresses, or you can simply write down numbers from the front side of the home as you go along or use two-way radios to communicate from the street to the alley. One way or the other, accuracy is very important. Numbers will only stick on clean, smooth, dry, and warm surfaces, preferably metal or vinyl. Consistent placement regarding height and the nearest the service walk is preferable. A quick wipe of the area to remove dust and careful placement of the stickers and you are done.

### Other tips and considerations for Alley Identification Projects:

- Try to work in blocks and complete sections in an orderly fashion
- If you have several people, you can divide up tasks to improve efficiency, such as
- Keep on the lookout for loose animals or other dangers
- If a building is very new, historic or has a poor surface, simply leave a flyer to inform the property owner of the code.
- Keep track of the number of houses and blocks numbered for record keeping and measuring your accomplishments.