



**City of Long Beach**  
*Working Together to Serve*

**R-34**  
**Memorandum**

**B-26**



**Date:** August 10, 2004  
**To:** The Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers *BL*  
**From:** Bonnie Lowenthal, Councilmember, First District  
**Subject:** **CITY CURFEW POSTING: REPORT REQUEST**

---

The summer season seems to correlate with the increase in graffiti and crimes committed by those under 18 years of age. Our downtown area, in particular, may need additional help in communicating to the public that the City of Long Beach has a legally enforced curfew in place.

For this reason, I respectfully request that the City Manager provide a report within 30 days that outlines the City's existing policies on curfew enforcement as well as whether a need exists for more widespread posting of curfew signs.

I also request that this matter be referred to the Public Safety Committee for their review.

I respectfully request my colleagues' support in this request.



**Date:** November 22, 2004  
**To:** Members of the Public Safety Committee  
**From:** Anthony W. Batts, Chief of Police \s\  
**Subject:** **CITY CURFEW SIGNS**

---

**DISCUSSION**

At the City Council meeting of August 10, 2004, the City Council directed staff to determine the need for posting curfew signs at Long Beach's popular entertainment spots (e.g., City Place, the Pike, Towne Center, and Pine Avenue) and referred the matter to the Public Safety Committee. The following information is provided for the Committee's consideration.

Currently, there is no signage at these locations, as it relates to juveniles and nighttime loitering. However, signage is not required in order to enforce the curfew law. Youth Services Division Detectives periodically conduct nighttime loitering sweeps as a means to enforce the curfew laws currently in the Long Beach Municipal Code (language attached).

The City of Huntington Beach has a similar downtown entertainment district where curfew signs are posted. Staff reviewed their experience and found that a noticeable decrease in juvenile loitering was observed directly following the posting of signs, but loitering steadily increased after a period of time.

Continued development of the downtown Long Beach area and the potential for more juvenile interest could increase the instances of nighttime loitering and criminal activity by juveniles. Posted curfew signs could help to decrease such occurrences and increase public awareness of the law. In an effort to further increase public awareness, the Police Department will launch a citywide education campaign.

Depending on the committee's recommendations, the Police Department, in cooperation with Public Works, could develop a list of locations where signage would be appropriate.

Recommended language for the signs is: LOITERING BY JUVENILES PROHIBITED AFTER 10 P.M. - 9.58.010 LBMC - STRICTLY ENFORCED.

**TIMING CONSIDERATIONS**

Committee action on this matter is not time critical.

November 18, 2004

Page 2

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost to purchase and install the curfew signs is approximately \$150 each.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE:

Review and recommend.

APPROVED:

*for Christine F. Shupp*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

AWB:AT:COPStaff  
City Curfew Signs

Attachment

## Chapter 9.58

### LOITERING

**9.58.010 Prohibition against juvenile being in public place between the hours of ten p.m. until six a.m. the following day.**

**9.58.020 Prohibition against juvenile loitering between the hours of eight-thirty a.m. to one-thirty p.m.**

---

**TOP ▲**

**9.58.010 Prohibition against juvenile being in public place between the hours of ten p.m. until six a.m. the following day.**

A. Curfew. It is unlawful for any minor under the age of eighteen years to remain in or upon any "public place", as defined in Section 9.02.090, between the hours of ten p.m. until six a.m. the following day.

B. Exceptions. The provisions of Subsection 9.58.010.A shall not apply when:

1. The minor is accompanied by his or her parent, guardian or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor;
2. The minor is on an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, without any detour or stop;
3. The minor is in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel;
4. The minor is engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop;
5. The minor is involved in an emergency requiring immediate action to prevent serious bodily injury or loss of life;
6. The minor is on the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence;
7. The minor is attending an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the City, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor, or the minor is going to or returning home from, without any detour or stop, an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the City, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor;
8. The minor is exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution;
9. The minor is emancipated pursuant to law.

C. Enforcement. Before taking any enforcement action under this Section, a police officer shall ask the apparent offender's age and reason for being in the public place. The officer shall not issue a citation or make an arrest under this Section unless the officer reasonably believes that an offense has occurred and that, based on any response and other circumstances, no exception under Subsection 9.58.010.B is present. (Ord. C-7488 § 1, 1997; Ord. C-6503 § 1, 1988; Ord. C-5938 § 1, 1983).