



Stones to be removed from Philosopher's Grove

Mayor cites safety concerns

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MADISON, Wis. -

Concerns from police are prompting Madison Mayor Paul Soglin to call for the removal of granite and bronze stones from a downtown area called Philosopher's Grove.

The mayor's office announced Monday morning that city staff will remove the stones from the area in the 100 block of Mifflin Street this week.

Business owners have long complained about customers being harassed by individuals loitering in the area, and police have tried increasing their presence and targeting drug deals.

"Officers have had increasing calls to the area for numerous violations ranging from vandalism and fights, to the sale of illegal narcotics and assaults," a release from the mayor's office said.

"While I appreciate the continued efforts of the State Street BID to plan events in the area, there continue to be many complaints and concerns raised by business owners, visitors and residents."

Some of the people who were at Philosopher's Grove Monday said removing the stones won't fix the problem, it will just move it somewhere else.

The stones were created by Wisconsin artist Jill Sebastian and are part of a piece of art which have been part of the grove for more than 10 years, according to the release. Soglin said the city will work with Sebastian to find an alternative location for the installation.

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