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Earlier City Curfew Is Proposed

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A Madison City Council member wants juveniles off city streets an hour earlier at night

Ald Jed Sanborn, 1st District, is proposing to roll back the city's curfew from 11 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays, and from midnight to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The law applies to children up to age 17.

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz was unaware that Sanborn was offering the proposal and wants to learn more before commenting, spokeswoman Rachel Strauch-Nelson said.

The proposed change will be introduced to the council Tuesday and referred to committees for review.

Sanborn said he was asked to propose the earlier curfew by some neighborhood police officers this summer.

An earlier curfew would help quiet neighborhoods by 11 p.m. on the weekend, said Mike Hanson, a Madison police neighborhood officer who covers the Hammersley Road area and surrounding streets on Madison's West Side. "I think residents will appreciate that."

An earlier curfew also would be enforced during the Madison Police Department's shift change, allowing officers to stay longer if there's a large disturbance, he said.

"From our standpoint we'll have more resources that can respond to these juvenile issues," he said.

Hanson said there are exceptions to the curfew, such as teens who are with parents or coming home from a sporting event, school dance or work.

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