

City of Madison Curfew

Facts:

- The Madison Police Department has written approximately 125 curfew tickets per year over the last three years.
- Most curfew tickets are written after Midnight.
- A very high percent of juveniles in this city obey the curfew ordinance.
- Federal Labor Laws do not allow children under the age of 16 to work past 7:00 PM.
- The ordinance change only affects one hour 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM Sunday thru Thursday for juveniles under the age of 16.
- Other Dane County communities have a 10:00 PM curfew Sunday thru Thursday.
- In 2008, 39 officers wrote 124 curfew citations to juveniles. Eight juveniles received more than one citation with one young lady receiving five citations from five different officers. Only 35 (28%) of the 124 curfew citations issued were on-site, meaning 72% of the time, officers were making contact with the juvenile for another reason. Here is a breakdown of the time of night and number of citations issued:

11:00 PM – 12:00 AM	18 citations (14.5%)
12:01 AM – 1:00 AM	46 citations (37%)
1:01 AM – 2:00 AM	16 citations (14%)
2:01 AM – 4:00 AM	44 citations (35.5%)

Questions and Answers

1. Why change the current curfew ordinance?

It has been recognized that the current curfew ordinance is too general and there is a different community standard between youths that are under the age of 16 and 16 and over youths. The ordinance change will only apply to youths under the age of 16. There is a certain level of vulnerability youths under 16 years of age face while out after 10:00 PM.

Quality of life in our neighborhoods has become a major issue throughout the city. Loud noises, disturbances, fights, alcohol/drug usage and minor property crimes all contribute to this issue and generate police calls. Juveniles play a role in this issue. The proposed ordinance change will help reduce these quality of life issues during the days of the week when most citizens are preparing for work the next morning and reduce police calls.

2. Will a juvenile who is out past curfew returning from work or a school dance be issued a citation?

No, the ordinance has an exception for juveniles returning home from work or a dance.

3. Will there be a large increase in curfew citation being issued?

No, as stated in the Facts section most juveniles comply with the curfew ordinance and between the hours of 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM officers are responding to priority calls.

Dispatch Protocols at Shift Change

During the one-hour shift change periods (6-7a.m., 2-3 p.m. and 10-11p.m.), it is expected that 911 Center and patrol personnel will adhere to the following protocols:

- **Priority calls:** Shall be dispatched to the closest officer regardless of district or shift assignment.
- **Routine calls:** Shall be dispatched for service when the beat officer or a district assigned officer is available from the shift transitioning into service. Officers from the previous shift may be required to assist as backup in the last hour of the shift.
- **Low priority calls:** Shall be held until late cars are in service.

Officers shall check in by radio with dispatch immediately after citywide briefing.

During the last hour of their shift, officers will be expected to be available in their assigned area. Early shift officers (6a – 2p; 2p – 10p; 10p – 6a) should not be dispatched to low priority calls during the last hour of their shift, and should not be dispatched to routine calls in the last 30 minutes of their shift. When appropriate, an officer may go into the station prior to the end of their shift to complete necessary tasks when approved by the O.I.C. Approval should be requested via MDC or telephone, rather than through dispatch. Officers are reminded that MPPOA contract provides for eight minutes prior to the end of the tour to file reports, and clean and store equipment.

4. How will this ordinance affect the minority disproportionate number of contacts with law enforcement?

The ordinance change will not affect the numbers. The data from 2006 and 2007 already shows more police contacts with minorities:

2007 curfew citations (121): 46 White 72 Black
2006 curfew citations (130): 52 White 71 Black 2 Native American 5 Asian

5. What do other communities have for a curfew ordinance?

Middleton:
under age 15 Sun-Thu 10p, Fri/Sat 11p
age 15-18 Sun-Thu 11p, Fri/Sat 12

Town of Madison
under age 16, 10p on all 7 days

Stoughton
Under age 16, Sun-Thu 10p, Fri/Sat 11p

McFarland
Under age 16: 10p for all 7 days, over 16 midnights all 7 days

Verona:
Under age 18, midnight all 7 days

Monona:
Under 16 years Sun-Thu 10p, Fri/Sat 11p
16-18 years Sun-Thu 11p, Fri/Sat 12

6. Does MPD support the curfew ordinance change?

Yes, we believe this change in the curfew ordinance will improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods by reducing noise complaints, disturbances, fights and some property crimes, therefore reducing the number of police calls dealing with these quality of life issues.