

Date: April 21, 2009  
To: Madison Common Council  
From: Alan Sweet, Chair  
Madison Community Services Commission  
Re: Comments on Proposed Changes to Curfew Ordinance

The Madison Community Services Commission (CSC) received the matter of the proposed changes to Madison's official curfew – Section 23.11 – at its February 11, 2009 meeting. A lengthy discussion was held after which a vote was taken on this motion:

"The Community Services Commission strongly encourages the Common Council to oppose the modification of the curfew hours for juveniles."

The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

At our April 15, 2009 meeting, the curfew issue was raised again, in consideration of the further changes to the proposed ordinance. The discussion was, once again, in strong opposition and the earlier vote from the February meeting was reconfirmed.

While I'm sure that you will hear a great deal of testimony at your meeting this evening addressing many of the issues raised during our meeting, I would like to highlight the primary areas of concern for the CSC:

- Lack of clarity as to the reason(s) for the proposed change;
- Concerns regarding the enforcement of the curfew, specifically if certain ethnic and socioeconomic groups might be unfair targets of such enforcement;
- Questions whether the new age modifications even make sense;
- Questions whether the intention of bringing Madison into sync with other Dane County municipalities is a valid reason for the change and whether that would even be achieved;
- Questions whether curfew violation enforcement is the most appropriate use of law enforcement resources;
- Finally, the CSC wonders whether the conversation should more appropriately be around the question of whether a curfew should exist at all.

Therefore, on behalf of the Madison Community Services Commission, I strongly encourage you to vote "no" on the proposed curfew changes.

cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz  
Bill Clingan  
Laura Noel  
Alder Lauren Cnare  
Alder Brian Solomon  
Members, Community Services Commission

Alan M. Sweet  
6321 Buford Drive  
Madison, WI 53718  
(608) 443-0761  
[2sweets@charter.net](mailto:2sweets@charter.net)