

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: September 25, 2001

SUBJECT: Proposal for a Litter Free Carrboro

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution B. Saul Threlkeld's Proposal for a Litter-Free Carrboro C. Governor Easley's Litter Sweep proclamation D. Sections 15-272, 15-273, 15-276 and 15-278 of the Land Use Code	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Chris Peterson 918-7427

Purpose

Carrboro resident, Mr. Saul Threlkeld, presented two proposals to the Board of Aldermen at the August 28, 2001 Board meeting. The objective of these proposals is to enhance the Town's appearance by reducing the amount of litter in Carrboro.

The first proposal presented by Mr. Threlkeld is to regulate all signs, advertisements and posters that are currently placed on utility poles. The purpose of this self-regulation policy would be to make residents accountable for cleaning up and discarding posters with dates that have expired. He also proposed that the Town hold a litter free awareness week with citizen involvement in collecting litter from the streets.

Information

The Planning department currently monitors public notices and advertisements posted on utility poles. The Administration does not perceive these signs to be a problem in adding to the litter in Carrboro, as suggested by Mr. Threlkeld. In those cases where posters are placed on utility poles at high traffic intersections, the Planning department takes responsibility for removing these posters before they become an eyesore. The Administration feels that posters that are placed in the downtown area that advertise entertainment events are not unappealing nor do they contribute to the litter downtown. Rather, they are perceived as a part of the character of the Town, which is noted for its support of and involvement in the Arts and Entertainment.

Prior to 1997, the town held a weekend cleanup twice a year. During this time mixed solid waste and yard waste were collected and taken to the landfill. However, this was discontinued by the Public Works department in 1997, after yard waste could no longer be mixed with the regular garbage. Providing this service was no longer feasible for the town as delivery of this service became too costly.

The temporary signs to which Mr. Threlkeld refers, are permitted without a zoning, special use, conditional use or sign permit. Such signs shall conform to the requirements set forth in Section 15-273 of the Land Use Code, except those contained in sections 15-276 and 15-278. Such signs are to be removed within three days of the event's occurrence. As a result, the administration supports the current efforts of the Town and would not require that these signs be regulated as proposed by Mr. Threlkeld.

The second proposal to conduct a litter-free awareness week was implemented in conjunction with the State's annual Litter Sweep cleanup as proclaimed by Governor Easley. This period was designated by the governor to run from September 17-30. The Town has participated in this event through coordinated efforts with the Town of Chapel Hill and volunteers. Volunteers collected trash in Carrboro at Bolin Creek from the access at Estes Drive Extension upstream along the OWASA easement. This project was very successful. Public Works is working during this period of September 17-30, to support the efforts of volunteers by collecting any additional trash that is picked up during this week. The Public Works Department along with any volunteers wishing to help is currently concentrating on the Central Business District of Town with our efforts. The Public Works Department has put forth approximately 198.70 manpower hours performing litter pickup over the past year

Administration Recommendation

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the resolution to participate in the State's Annual 2001 Litter Sweep Roadside cleanup, as proclaimed by Michael Easley, governor of the State of North Carolina. This is an annual event in which the Town will participate to ensure clean roads in Carrboro, in response to Mr. Threlkeld's proposal to have a litter free Carrboro.