

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: December 12, 2002

TITLE: A Request to Adopt An Ordinance Amending the Town Code to Prohibit Loitering in the Town Commons, Century Center, Town Parking Lots and Bus Shelters

DEPARTMENT: Police	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Captain Daryl Caldwell, 918-7409

PURPOSE

Police and Chapel Hill Transit personnel have noticed increased loitering in Town bus stop shelters since the advent of fare-free bus service. Generally, persons loitering have no specific intention to ride the bus. Chapel Hill Transit personnel and citizens who legitimately use the bus shelters while waiting for the bus have asked Police Officers to remove loiterers from the bus shelters. Currently, we have no specific authority to prohibit loitering at Town bus stop shelters. This proposed Ordinance amends the current Ordinance simply by adding the Century Center, Town Commons, Town owned or leased parking lots, and Town bus stop shelters to the list of other Town of Carrboro property upon which loitering is prohibited (including the Town Hall, Police or Fire station, and Public Works building).

INFORMATION

With the advent of fare-free bus service, we have experienced an increase in loitering in and around Town bus stop shelters. Citizens, Chapel Hill Transit personnel, and Police Officers have reported incidents involving persons who sit for hours, sleep or "pass out," and congregate in the shelters in an effort to stay out of the elements. Such persons rarely, if ever, attempt to board a bus and bus drivers see the same people frequently. When such people attempt to ride the bus, they are frequently asked to leave or are not permitted entry by bus drivers due to their intoxication, unruly behavior, or failure to disembark during the route.

The proposed amendment to the current Ordinance will permit Police Officers to prohibit loitering without any legitimate purpose at the bus stops and at the other locations mentioned and will provide consistent authority at all Town-owned or operated property.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the attached Ordinance.