

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2003

TITLE: A Request to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Town of Carrboro Police to Ban Persons From Town Bus Shelters for up to One Year

DEPARTMENT: Police	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Carolyn Hutchison 918-7412

PURPOSE

On January 21, 2003, the Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance amending the Town Code to prohibit loitering at the bus shelters. The purpose of this item is for the Board to receive a report on the experience of the Police Department in enforcing that ordinance and to consider a resolution authorizing the police department to use the trespass statutes to deal with this persistent problem.

INFORMATION

As previously reported, with the advent of fare-free bus service, the Town experienced an increase in loitering in and around our bus stop shelters, especially in the area of 501 Jones Ferry Road. Citizens, Chapel Hill Transit personnel, and Police Officers reported many incidents and a variety of crimes involving persons who loiter in or near the bus shelters. The ordinance adopted by the Board on January 21, 2003, allows officers to require loiterers to leave the area, and they do so. However, the ordinance helps citizens and police officers for a very short period of time since the loiterers leave for a while and then return, usually a day later. At that time, when police officers ask the persons to leave the area, they comply and the cycle begins again. As a result, the loitering ordinance has not eliminated the problem. . Since January, we have responded to at least 20 complaints at the Town's bus shelters. While reports of loitering top the list (7), Officers have also investigated complaints of harassment, public urination, armed robbery, fights, loud noise, suspicious persons, and communicating threats. This proposed resolution authorizes the Town of Carrboro Police to ban persons from Town bus shelters for up to one year.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board adopt the attached Resolution.

