

**City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle**  
**Public Hearing: Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle**  
**Tuesday – June 9, 2009 – 6 p.m.**

**Present:**

Council President William Barthel  
Councilperson John Cochran  
Councilperson John Gaworski  
Councilperson Ted Megginson  
Councilperson Teel Petty

**Also present:**

City Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, Police Chief Kevin McDerby

Consideration of Ordinance No. 464, establishing a Curfew applicable to persons 17 years old and younger, who shall not be allowed unaccompanied in public overnight in the City of New Castle.

President Barthel explained that he was approached by folks out in the Boothhurst area who said a curfew was something the City Council might want to consider. In speaking with other folks throughout the City, they said they favored a curfew.

President Barthel explained the ordinance as proposed, from Sept. 1 to May 31, it shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 to be or remain in a public place in the City of New Castle for the period from midnight to 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on all other nights.

From June 1 through Aug. 31, it shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 to be or remain in a public place in the City of New Castle for the period from midnight to 5 a.m. on all nights.

Clete Snavely, 1106 Washington St., said they have had problems with kids running down the streets screaming and cussing as late as 1 a.m. Also they throw garbage in the street and are all over the properties. He supports the ordinance. He suggested that if they get picked up a second time, make the parents pay \$300. At night, the teens vandalize the area.

Janet Koczak, 615 West 11th St., said she and her husband are for the ordinance. She favors 11 p.m. on all nights. She said there are graffiti problems and some uncomfortable situations.

Chief McDerby said he knows curfew laws work in other communities and doesn't see why they won't work in New Castle. He said it is another tool in the police department's toolbox. He supports the idea of a curfew. Experience will show how much of a burden it will put on the police department. He said the key thing is to provide a nice quiet, comfortable community for the residents.

Councilperson Petty asked Chief McDerby whether it is necessary to have the curfew Citywide or could be in a certain area.

Chief McDerby said it should be Citywide if the Council is going to enact a curfew.

Councilperson Gaworski said he too believes the curfew should be 11 p.m. all nights.

Councilperson Megginson said he agrees with Chief McDerby that it must be Citywide. He pointed out the youths otherwise could go to the neighborhoods unprotected by the curfew.

Mary Rispoli, East Sixth Street, asked whether the curfew applied to anyone in the City, not just City residents. She favors the curfew. She said responsible parents already have curfews for their children.

President Barthel said it applies to anyone meeting the age restriction.

Clete Snavely, 1106 Washington St., supports it Citywide because the kids travel.

President Barthel said City Council has received e-mails, all in favor of enacting the ordinance.

Robert Burns, Washington Park, wrote that he read in the New Castle Crier about the curfew and he would like to plead, beg and urge that it be enacted. Many teens are out late at night in his area. His household is regularly awakened.

Katie Burns wrote that she was in support and often has problems with teens walking the streets, yelling, cursing and screaming.

Ellie Green wrote she favors the enactment of the curfew and the age and time limit.

The public hearing was adjourned 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dickinson  
New Castle City Clerk