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City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
CHAIR

ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH & AGING
VICE-CHAIR

HOUSING, COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MEMBER

July 22, 2008

Councilmember Alarcon, Chair
Education and Neighborhoods Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: *Item 3*

Dear Councilman Alarcon:

The motion and draft ordinance before you today is a product of meetings between Captain Green of the Newton Police Division, Mr. Michael Hopwood of Los Angeles Unified School District Security Operations and my office. Both of these individuals felt that the City's current daytime curfew ordinance did not give the Los Angeles Police Department the proper tools to keep our neighborhoods and students safe. Neighborhoods with high occurrences of daytime juvenile loitering are at an increased risk of criminal activity. These same minors are also at risk of being victimized themselves and are susceptible to gang recruitment.

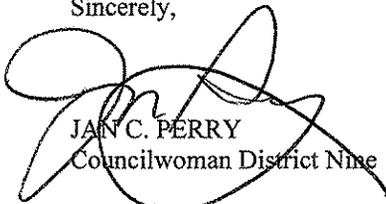
The current law states that minors who are subject to compulsory education cannot be out in public during the hours of 8:30am-1:30pm. One of the amendments I propose is to change that time frame to be the hours of the day when the school, which the minor would normally attend, is in session. This is a reasonable revision, youth who are required to attend school until 3:00pm should not be given a free pass to roam the streets unsupervised beginning at 1:30pm.

A second amendment that I feel is necessary is to eliminate the exception for attending a place of public entertainment when said activity is not in conjunction with a school group or with the permission of a parent/guardian. While this makes sense to have for a nighttime curfew, having this exception in the daytime allows for inappropriate activity during school hours.

It should be noted that in my original motion, I asked the City Attorney to review the daytime curfew ordinance of the City of Long Beach. After meetings with staff from the City Attorney's office, it has come to my attention that the City of Monrovia has a daytime curfew ordinance that has been challenged and upheld in court. Modeling the amendments to Los Angeles' ordinances after Monrovia's will provide our City with a stronger ordinance.

I ask that you support these amendments to the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Sincerely,



JAN C. PERRY
Councilwoman District Nine

Cc Members of the Education and Neighborhoods Committee

