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CURFEW STILL IN PLACE FOR CITY YOUTH

No public activity starting at 9:30 p.m. or 11 p.m. for minors under eighteen.

1/8/16 Asbury Park, NJ— the City of Asbury Park reminds residents that a curfew is in place for minors and youths who are under 18 years old. Curfew breaking can result in fines, community service, and court appearances.

“Curfew goes a long way to protect the juvenile as well, to take them off the streets,” said Acting Police Chief Anthony Salerno. “It keeps them from getting in trouble, from being tempted to do things that they would not otherwise be predisposed to do, and it takes a potential victim off the streets.”

“Much gang activity and gun violence is perpetrated by teens, so this is an opportunity to remove them from the streets. And in some cases, if they’re carrying a weapon or drugs, or something that could be used to hurt themselves or others, we get those off the street too,” Salerno said.

“We have seen a reduction in the instances of juvenile crime over the last five years,” Salerno said.

Curfew runs from 9:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. for minors thirteen years old or younger and from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. for minors between the ages of fourteen and seventeen. Within that time minors are not allowed on public streets or public places within the city. That includes vacant lots, public transportation facilities and vehicles, and places of entertainment.

Although curfew enforcement is time-consuming and logistically difficult for officers, Acting Chief Salerno said that it is still important, and that he hopes to refine the procedure as much as possible within the confines of county and state policies. That may involve bringing on special officers as police aids, to assist with the administrative side of curfew enforcement, especially with paperwork and phone calls.

Curfew also applies during daytime school hours for whichever school the minor attends, unless they have been officially excused by school authorities. Suspension or expulsion does not count as being officially excused.

Exceptions can be made if the minor is in a motor vehicle, accompanied by a parent or authorized adult, within 50 feet of their home, returning from a school, church, social event or medical appointment, or is carrying a certified card of employment or worker’s permit. A parent or guardian knowing that the minor is out after curfew does not count as an exception.

First-time curfew violations will result in a written warning. If curfew is violated a second time, the minor's parents or guardian will have to pay a fine of no less than \$80. If curfew is violated twice within a six-month period, the minor could be required to perform community service for up to 90 days. A minor who has violated curfew more than three times will be reported to juvenile authorities as a minor in need of supervision. For multiple curfew violations, the minor will be required to appear in Municipal Court or the Superior Court of New Jersey, with additional penalties and fines decided by the court's Judge.