

May 27, 2004

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CALUMET CITY

Officials to weigh new loitering laws

The City Council is expected to vote on anti-loitering ordinances, including one modeled after Chicago's gang law, Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Quaklinbush said.

The council is expected to attach additional penalties, beef up enforcement of existing laws and approve the installation of two cameras mounted on telephone poles. The council is scheduled to address the measures on Thursday, officials said.

The new guidelines are not related to an ordinance Calumet City police used during the last two months to charge schoolchildren with being in the street, she said. That law, which last week had 130 children in adjudication court charged with \$200 fines, is based on an Illinois state law that prohibits walking in the street where there are sidewalks.

Aldermen are also expected to pass an ordinance prohibiting narcotic-related loitering.

Council members are likely to approve \$68,500 for two cameras to watch troubled neighborhoods. The city has been considering the cameras for about three years.

James D. Wolf Jr.