

City of Newburgh  
2008 “Safe Streets Save Lives” Roundtable Discussion

**Synopsis of Three Meetings Regarding a Curfew**

**Thursday, June 19**

**Saturday, June 21**

**Monday June 30**

The following is a synopsis of the three meetings held in June 2008, related to the “Safe Streets Save Lives” legislation currently before the City Council for review. These roundtable sessions were developed to help guide the City Council members as it relates to a curfew. This dialogue is a response from the City Council members and citizens to recent homicides in the spring of 2008. The curfew is one tool addressing youth violence that City officials are reviewing. Additional strategies are also being discussed. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Department of Human Services 565-1213.

Three themes emerged from this session:

1. We control our interaction with the youth in our community
2. Lack of community accountability
3. Need to develop a timeline and strategy with next step

**What are the benefits of a curfew?**

1. What are we talking about? Is this a way that we can identify families who need help?  
Support from the community
2. Keep children safer
3. Help the working parent
4. Save lives(children out of the line of fire)
5. Allows us to really find out what is going on at home
6. A way to hold adults accountable, not just guardians
7. Fewer kids around drugs
8. Shows that City cares about children
9. Decrease in lateness and absences from school
10. Increase in academic performance
11. Force community organization to come up with creative solutions
12. Quieter and safer streets for children and adults
13. Shared community responsibility
14. Keep kids out of the Juvenile Justice System
15. Call it the Safe Kids – Initiative
16. Need exceptions to legislation - pass from organization to provide youth involved in events & positive programming
17. This is a necessary tool
18. Need to start now. Mechanism for targeted assistance for families
19. Decrease the victimization of adults

### **What would we have to take in consideration?**

1. Exceptions for children who work or coming home from a community event. This could be proven with a pay stub or ticket stub
2. Age, time, and day-
  - a. 11 p.m. for children 17 yrs and younger
  - b. M-F 9 p.m. for children 17yrs and younger
  - c. 11 and under 9 p.m.
  - d. 12-17 years 11 p.m.
3. What would be the basis for stopping the youth?- reasonable cause
4. There are already laws on the books that are similar to the curfew- enforce the laws that are already on the books
5. To make the curfew fairer have it county wide
6. What are ramifications for the child's future if they are in taken in for being in violation of the curfew-will they have an arrest record?
7. Be mindful of the power that this law would give the government and the police
8. There are kids who are on the street - there is a need for action

### **Problems with the curfew**

1. Are we being reactionary?
2. Discrimination
3. In violation of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> amendment of the United State Constitution
4. In other cities a curfew has failed, where it did work 1.3 million dollars went into the community
5. Increase the level of defiance in the children- it will cause more violence in the streets
6. Loop holes: child can hang out with older sibling
7. Inequality of enforcement
8. Negative impacts on the children based on interaction with police who are enforcing this law
9. Holding parents accountable for an out of control child. Who are we addressing by putting youth behind bars?
10. Makes the job of the police much more difficult
11. What is the burden on the parents?
12. An 8 year old and 15 year old should be treated differently
13. Kids are not the problem - we are the problem
14. Youth are currently working on strategies to beat the curfew
15. Innocent children will be targeted

### **What are some solutions?**

1. There are solutions we should focus on as a community- curfew, id's, Guardian Angels, be a leader and step up to the plate.
2. Block watches
3. Neighborhood associations
4. Take accountability- if you see a large group of kids out after midnight call the police
5. Engage youth in conversations
6. Adults need to be adults

7. Neighbors need to be neighbors
8. School gyms need to be open until midnight
9. Empower the youth
10. Youth need to have a explanation of why there is a curfew
11. Character education
12. Increased communication between community organizations that provide service in the City (the city is largest provider of services in the county)
13. Support your neighborhood children
14. Outreach specifically to youth in tougher neighborhoods
15. Project ideas: custom trash cans – make kids responsible for them, graffiti clean-up, park clean-up, AmeriCorps - Vista volunteers, Literacy, Is there youth employment office?
16. The City government should deal with the problem.
17. Accountability among community agencies that provide services for our youth.
18. How are we using our resources?
19. Community needs to address the gang problem.
20. Need additional outreach for youth.
21. Police should shut down drug markets by stopping people on the street coming into our neighborhoods - police checkpoints.
22. Sensitivity training for the police
23. City should take buildings and create pocket parks - look at Broadway & Johnston
24. We need to look at the root of the problem
25. There are things to do - we need parents to get their kids there.
26. City programming for youth should include conflict resolution skills
27. Need to address programs with children with disabilities and youth homelessness.

**Who would enforce this law?**

1. Codes
2. City officials
3. Community organizations
4. Police
5. Department of Social Services – needs to be the first step when a child is in violation of the curfew
6. School district