



Public Works & Protection Committee

April 9, 2026

Agenda No. 6.d

Department: Administration

Initiator: Joel Gregozeski

Category: Action Item

Appearance: No

Consider/Discuss/Act on a Proposed Ordinance Repealing and Recreation Chapter 9, Criminal Offenses, Article 1, Miscellaneous Offices, Section 7: Loitering.

FULL EXPLANATION: At the request of the Green Bay Transit Director, the following Ordinance is being presented for consideration and recommendation to the Village Board.

The Village's existing loitering code reflects older statutory models and includes subjective standards that are difficult to apply consistently. Several parts of the current ordinance also overlap with other state statutes or local provisions already used by law enforcement. To address these issues, staff worked with Public Safety to draft a revised version that concentrates on specific conduct that affects public safety and accessibility, particularly in public rights-of-way and transit areas. The following is a summary of the changes proposed:

Key elements removed:

- Subjective references to behavior that “warrants alarm.”
- Language tied to prowling, which is now better addressed under separate statutes.
- Broad prohibitions on being present in certain public places without a clear conduct-based standard.

Key elements added or clarified:

- Clear definitions of “loitering” and “public place.”
- A focus on conduct that obstructs pedestrian, vehicle, or transit access.
- A process for officers to order individuals to move along before enforcement.
- Specific provisions related to transit stop interference.
- Removal of school-ground language already covered in state trespass laws.

The revised ordinance is designed to be easier for officers to apply, more defensible if challenged, and more transparent for the public. The proposed ordinance includes:

1. Definitions for the terms “loitering” and “public place.”
2. Prohibited acts tied directly to obstruction of movement, interference with business activity, or interference with transit operations
3. Officer authority to issue an order to disperse when conduct creates one of the prohibited conditions. Enforcement applies only when a person refuses to comply.

This update modernizes the Village’s approach to loitering-related issues. It targets specific behaviors rather than an individual’s mere presence, reduces ambiguity, and aligns better with current enforcement practices. The ordinance maintains the Village’s interest in public safety and accessibility without overreaching or duplicating other laws.

MONETARY IMPACT: N/A

BUDGETED: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: Administration is requesting the recommended adoption of the Ordinance to repeal and recreation Chapter 9, Criminal Offenses, Article 1, Miscellaneous Offices, Section 7: Loitering. If the Committee is in agreement, the following motion can be made, "***Motion to recommend and forward to Village Board the draft ordinance (as presented or amended) to repeal and recreate Chapter 9, Criminal Offenses, Article 1, Miscellaneous Offices, Section 7: Loitering.***"

ATTACHMENTS:

- [2026.04.06 - Ordinance 04-#-26 - Repeal and Recreate Chapter 9, Article 1, Section 7 Loitering_Draft.pdf](#)
- [2026.3.29 - Email_Loitering and Bus Shelter.pdf](#)