

# Theater ponders installation of metal detector

By C. L. Rugenstein  
Staff writer

The verdict is still out about installing a metal detector at the Americana Theater in Southfield. The device was one security measure reportedly being discussed in the wake of the Nov. 17 shooting at the Greenfield Road theater. In that incident two men were shot and one woman struck by a car after a melee following a showing of the movie "Harlem Nights."

"The metal detector is still under study. We haven't reached a decision yet," said Jerry Barber, American Multi Cinema's northeast division manager, from the division office in Voorhees, N.J.

That decision could be made by Friday, after Barber meets with AMC Detroit manager John Zols and marketing, engineering and opera-

tions people for the theater management company.

Because of a metal detector would set a precedent for AMC theaters, "I want to hear everyone's opinion," Barber said.

**JUSTIFYING USE** of the device, and not infringement of personal rights, is the main consideration, Barber said.

"There are two major areas of thought" on that, he said. "First, is it necessary? And second, what will be the reaction of the general public?"

AMC personnel will question whether the detector would cause such a negative impact that people would stay away from the theater.

On the other hand, it could be positive, making people feel secure and encouraging greater attendance, Barber said.

Barber, who spent the past week

in Detroit reviewing the Americana situation, added, the issue was brought into focus at Metro airport as he passed through a metal detector there. He said he tried to envision it at the Americana and how it might impact movie patrons.

**"TO THE PEOPLE** in the airport it was a normal activity," he said. "Anyone who tries to walk into an airport with a gun is a fool because he'll be arrested immediately."

One security measure AMC found effective in other locations is the use of off-duty police as security guards.

"Harlem Nights is perceived as the catalyst of the incident," Barber said. He said the film was shown in Washington, D.C., and at a theater on 8 Mile Road in Detroit but, "The only area we had a problem was at the Americana."

In both those areas, however, local off-duty police officers served as security guards.

"And they are a known factor" to patrons, said Barber about the officers.

AMC has unsuccessfully approached the Southfield Police Department about having a similar arrangement for the Americana.

**THAT WOULD** be against a long-standing department policy, said Southfield Police Chief Ron Fasbinder.

"It's difficult for us to take our manpower and disseminate it to all the business enterprises that would like to have security," Fasbinder said. "It would be impossible."

The department only provides security for situations that might involve large amounts of traffic — grand openings, religious holidays

like Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana, or special one-day events, Fasbinder said.

Neil Katcher, AMC district manager, at a Nov. 21 press conference to

outline proposed theater security improvements, said extra police help is provided to the Americana on request, when large crowds are anticipated.

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1989 WINTER TAX  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of Farmington tax statements are payable December 1, 1989 through February 14, 1990. A 3% penalty will be added on February 15, 1990.

As of March 1, 1990 all 1989 taxes must be paid to C. Hugh Dohany, Oakland County Treasurer.

City hall offices will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except for the following:

- Monday, December 25, 1989
- Tuesday, December 26, 1989
- Monday, January 1, 1990
- Tuesday, January 2, 1990

For your convenience, a depository is located in the city hall lobby.

**PATSY CANTRELL**  
Treasurer

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**CITY OF FARMINGTON  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
(Summary)**

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Tupper at 8:00 p.m. on November 20, 1989, in Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

**PRESENT:** Hartsock, McShane, Richardson, Tupper, Yoder.  
**CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** City Manager Deadman, Director Lauboff, K. Gushman, Adm. Assistant Schultz, City Attorney Donohue, City Clerk Hasley.

The Oath of Office was administered to the newly elected Council members. Council elected Shirley V. Richardson as Mayor and Ralph D. Yoder as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Minutes of the previous meetings of November 6, 1989 were approved. Girls State representative Debbie Stein reported to Council.

Council held a public hearing on Community Development Block Grant Funds and adopted the following resolutions:

- Authorizing application to Oakland County Community Development Div. for \$7,500 Housing Rehabilitation and \$31,615 to encourage economic development and prevent spread of blight in CBD, for 1990-91 program.
- Authorizing application to OCCD to reprogram 1985 and 1986 funds to commercial revitalization in 1990-91.

Minutes of other Boards were received and/or filed.

Council accepted, with regret, the resignation of Herbert Cumbo from the Board of Review.

Council adopted a resolution authorizing the DDA to seek an Oakland County permit to install banners on Farmington Road.

Council introduced Ordinance C-567-89 to prohibit parking on the south side of 10 Mile Road from Orchard Lake Road west to Broadway.

Council supported Detroit Edison's filing with the Public Service Commission on the proposed method of funding new street lights.

Council adopted a resolution concurring with the selected site, Auburn Hills, of the County Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Council received a progress report on CSO permits and the City's Sewer Program.

Council authorized a one-year lease of a Police Vehicle from Red Holman Chevrolet.

Public comments were heard.

Mayor Richardson reminded Council of the Gazebos/Pergola dedication on November 22, 1989.

Council made the following appointments:

- Board of Canvassers: 4-year Terms - William Liba, David Slader;
- Board of Review - William Bilas (3 year term); Mary Bush to fill unexpired term of H. Cumbo; Rae Rockafellow to fill unexpired term of Ms. Maier;
- Planning Commission - Councilwoman McShane.

Council received the following reports:

- Public Safety Department Operations Quarterly Report, September, 1989;
- General Fund, 4th District Court and Water/Sewer Fund financial reports for three months ended September 30, 1989.

The following Ordinance was adopted:

### ORDINANCE NO. C-566-89

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FARMINGTON CITY CODE BY AMENDING SECTIONS 31-132, 31-140 AND 31-248 OF CHAPTER 31, TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLES, TO PROVIDE FOR IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLES UNLAWFULLY LOCATED IN SPACES DESIGNATED FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING; TO REQUIRE VEHICLES ON LOCAL STREETS OR HIGHWAYS TO BE SO LOADED AND EQUIPPED TO PREVENT THEIR CONTENTS FROM DROPPING OR SPILLING FROM THE VEHICLES; AND TO CORRECT EXISTING MISPRINTS IN THE CHAPTER.**

### THE CITY OF FARMINGTON ORDAINS:

**SECTION 1.**  
Section 31-132, Vehicle Removed by Department of Public Safety, Subsection (a) only, of Chapter 31, Traffic and Motor Vehicles, is hereby amended to add Subsection (8) which shall read as follows:

(8) If the vehicle is stopped, standing, or parked in a space designated for handicapped parking and is not permitted by law to be stopped, standing, or parked in a space designated for handicapped parking.

### SECTION 2.

Section 31-360, Spilling Loads on Streets Prohibited; Violation as Misdemeanor, Chapter 31, Traffic and Motor Vehicles, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) A person shall not drive or move a vehicle on a local street or highway unless the vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent its contents from dropping, falling, leaking, blowing off except for hay or straw, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle. The tailgate, faucets, and taps on a vehicle shall be securely closed to prevent spillage during transportation whether the vehicle is loaded or empty, and the vehicle shall not be used in any manner or cracks through which material can escape. Any highway maintenance vehicle engaged in either fire or snow removal shall be exempt from this section.

(b) Actual spillage of material on the highway or proof that spillage is not necessary to prove a violation of this section.

(c) A vehicle carrying a load, other than logs or tubular products, which is not completely enclosed shall meet either of the following requirements:

- (1) Have the load covered with firmly secured canvas or a similar type of covering.
- (2) Have the load securely fastened to the body or the frame of the vehicle with binders of adequate number and of adequate breaking strength to prevent the dropping off or shifting of the load.
- (3) A company or individual who loads or unloads a vehicle or causes it to be loaded or unloaded, with knowledge that it is to be driven on a public highway, in a manner so as to cause a violation of Subsection (a) shall be prima facie liable for a violation of this section.
- (4) Subsection (c) shall not apply to a person operating a vehicle to transport seasonal agricultural commodities at the time of harvest or for farmers operating their own trucks in the normal operation of the farm. However, a person operating a vehicle to transport seasonal agricultural commodities at the time of harvest in the normal operation of the farm who violates Subsections (a) or (d) is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in Subsection (h).
- (5) Subsection (c)(1) shall not apply to a motor vehicle transporting items of a load which because of their weight will not fall off the moving vehicle and which have their centers of gravity located at least six (6) inches below the top of the enclosure, nor to a motor vehicle carrying metal which because of its weight and density is so loaded as to prevent it from dropping or falling off the moving vehicle.
- (6) Subsection (c)(1) shall not apply to motor vehicles and other equipment engaged in work upon the surface of a highway or street in a designated work area.
- (7) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or both.

### Section 3.

Section 31-366, Penalties for Driving Without a License, Subsections (d) and (e) only of Chapter 31, Traffic and Motor Vehicles, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (d) The Secretary of State, upon receiving a record of the conviction of a person upon a charge of unlawful operation of a motor vehicle while the license of the person is suspended, revoked or denied, or of the conviction of a person for violation of the motor vehicle laws of this state while the license of the person is suspended, revoked or denied, shall immediately extend the period of the first suspension or revocation for an additional like period or, if a period has not been determined, then for not less than thirty (30) days, but not more than one (1) year.
- (e) Before the plea of the person is accepted under this section, the arresting officer shall check with the Secretary of State to determine the record and status of the person according to the department files and shall so inform the court.

### Section 4. Savings.

All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they are commenced.

### Section 5. Severability.

If any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be declared to be unconstitutional, void, illegal, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such section, clause, or provision declared to be unconstitutional, void, or illegal shall thereby cease to be a part of this ordinance, but the remainder of this ordinance shall stand and be in full force and effect.

### Section 6. Repealer.

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

### Section 7. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days following its enactment and upon its publication as provided by the Charter of the City of Farmington.

### Section 8. Adoption.

This ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the City Council of the City of Farmington at a meeting thereof duly called and held on the 20th day of November, 1989, and ordered to be given publication in the manner prescribed by the Charter of the City of Farmington.

Moved by Hartsock and supported by McShane.

YEAS: Hartsock, McShane, Richardson, Tupper, Yoder.

NAYS: None.

ABSENTS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

Ordained this 20th day of November, 1989, by the City Council of the City of Farmington.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Published November 30, 1989

SHIRLEY V. RICHARDSON, Mayor  
JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

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