

Suburbs Eager To Ban Obscenity

An Observer Roundup.

Redford Township trustees passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale, distribution or showing of pornographic films, literature or pictures.

Westland councilmen added two new laws to the books - an anti-pornography ordinance and a massage parlor ordinance.

Garden City officials approved a new ordinance restricting adult movie theaters and other businesses which attract crowds.

Livonia's city council amended its ordinance concerning obscenity by adding language identical to the state statute.

Southfield City Council recently passed a "nuisance" ordinance making it unlawful to exhibit obscene movies in the city. Violation is punishable by a misdemeanor penalty of up to \$500 in fines, 90 days in jail or both.

In some cases action was prompted by businesses seeking to move within a city. But in other cases, only the threat of such businesses moving their way was sufficient to prompt action.

Southfield's "nuisance" ordinance came after a theater was raided for showing the X-rated "Deep Throat." The city has refused to grant the theater owners an operators license.

A zoning ordinance is being considered in Southfield which will regulate adult movies, bookstores and cabarets.

The proposed ordinance would restrict establishments to business and industrial districts at least 1,500 feet from a residential area. A waiver would require six per cent approval of neighbors by petition.

Businessmen who want to

open an adult movie theater, adult bookstore or topless go-go cabaret in Garden City must get written permission from at least 51 per cent of residents or businessmen within 500 feet, prohibit minors under 18 years of age from patronizing the business, and prohibit advertising related to "specified sexual activities," and "specified anatomical areas," which are defined in the ordinance.

Both Redford Township's and Westland's ordinances are U.S. Supreme Court guidelines to define obscenity. The criteria are:

- The dominant theme of the material taken as a whole must appeal to a prurient interest in sex.
- The material must affront contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sexual acts.
- The material must be utterly without redeeming social value.

The massage parlor ordinance passed in Westland outlines guidelines for operating, including licenses from the city clerk.

Hearings Set

On Phone Hike

The Michigan Public Service Commission has scheduled public hearings in Detroit on April 11 on Michigan Bell Telephone Co.'s request for a \$27 million rate increase.

Hearings will be at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the first floor banquet room of the Veterans' Memorial Building, 151 W. Jefferson, Detroit.

Another public hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. April 16 in the Law Building auditorium in Lansing.

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