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8-30-70

SC Readies Anti-Hitchhiking Resolution For League Parley

By BRUCE McPHERSON
Sentinel Staff Writer

A resolution from the City of Santa Cruz asking that more strict regulations on hitchhiking be enforced on a statewide basis will be introduced at the League

of California Cities state convention, Oct. 25 to 28 in San Diego.

The resolution states that "hitchhiking activities in the State of California have substantially increased and constitute a hazard to traffic move-

ment and threatens the safety of pedestrians and vehicular traffic."

It adds that increased hitchhiking has in turn resulted in more traffic accidents and major crimes throughout the state, and that "it is increasingly difficult to regulate and enforce hitchhiking activities as a traffic offense under the present Vehicle Code Section."

The city council last week declined to act on a hitchhiking ordinance on the local level. At that time, however, they said they wanted to pursue proper legal channels to see if something more restrictive could not be passed on a statewide basis. It was suggested that a resolution be sent to the league's convention.

About 5,000 delegates representing virtually every city in the state attend the convention, and about 30 are expected to attend from Santa Cruz.

All city councilmen, except Mrs. Anne Garni who said she would like the ordinance to be enforced on a local level only, have indicated they will attend the convention along with various department heads.

Mayor Ernest Wicklund this morning said, "Many other cities, such as San Francisco, have said they are interested in solving this problem and we hope there will be statewide support through the League of California Cities to bring pressure on the state legislature to enact more stringent hitchhiking laws."

He said the proposed resolution probably will be referred

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