

# 'No Loitering' Signs—

## *City of Fairbanks Extricate Signs from the Streets*

FAIRBANKS — About two weeks ago all the "No Loitering" signs in Fairbanks disappeared. Nobody's saying why. City Attorney Ben Delahay refers you to Wally Droz, city manager. Droz says he took the signs down because the City Council asked him to.

Why? Droz claims he doesn't know.

"You'll have to ask individual City Council members," he said. "They didn't vote on it."

Attorney Pat Murphy asked.

"Everyone had a different

explanation," he reported.

But it just might have something to do with the law suit filed by Murphy, Steve Cooper and Millard Ingraham against the city of Fairbanks charging the signs were unconstitutional.

The subject was first broached in the Tundra Times on July 7. It was noted that individual members of the Tanana Chiefs questioned the loitering ordinance and Ingraham thought they had good grounds.

There followed a demand by Councilman Bob Parsons for more strict enforcement of the

"No Loitering" law. Then Murphy, Cooper, and Ingraham filed their suit.

Now, because the signs are down, they've filed notice of dismissal.

"The ordinance is invalid but since the signs were down we decided to withdraw. If an actual case ever came up we'd reconsider," Murphy said.

Now Fairbanks Mayor Julian Rice has approached the trio and asked them to serve on a committee to consider the loitering problem.

(Continued on page 6)

# Loitering ..

(Continued from page 1)

The attorneys have agreed to serve if the committee will adopt a broad definition of "loitering" and if, indeed, it really is a problem.

"Really I think it's more fundamental. That there's no area in town where people can sit or stand. Just businesses and parking lots."

But Murphy expects no immediate action.

"Once snow occurs we have very few people loitering, anyway," he observed.