

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 7, 2014

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee:
Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair), Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, and Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT Noise & Panhandling Ordinances and Enforcement

On Monday, November 10, 2014 you will be briefed on the noise & panhandling ordinances and enforcement. The briefing material is attached for your review

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric D. Campbell".

Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

[Attachment]

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Noise & Panhandling Ordinances and Enforcement

Presented to the Quality of Life & Environment Committee
Monday, November 10, 2014



www.dallaspolice.net



David O. Brown
Chief Of Police

History

On September 17, 2014, the Quality of Life Committee requested a briefing by the Police Department to discuss various noise and solicitation issues within the City of Dallas

Purpose

To develop viable and sustainable solutions to improve overall quality of life and general well-being in the City of Dallas

Celebratory Noise Violations

- Task force operations conducted annually on both New Years Eve and Fourth of July
- Dallas Fire Rescue personnel and Dallas Police Department personnel collaborate to enforce firework violations
- All confiscated fireworks are transported to either the Dallas Police Department Property Room or disposed of by the Explosive Ordinance Unit

Celebratory Noise Violations

- No person in the city or within 5,000 feet outside the city limits may manufacture, sell, offer to sale, give away, store, possess, or use fireworks
- Traditionally fireworks are confiscated more often than citations written
- As of September 1, 2013, Texas House Bill 1813 does not authorize a municipality to confiscate packaged, unopened fireworks

Vehicle Noise Violation

- Pilot program initiated by Northeast Patrol Division
- Program conducted from April 1, 2013 – October 1, 2013
- Process required a 311 call be generated based on vehicles in motion emitting loud music
- Registered owners would then be contacted via a letter of notification by a Neighborhood Police Officer

Vehicle Noise Violation

- The following requirements **must** be met before a 311 call would be entered:
 - Motor vehicle **must be in motion** and not parked
 - The 311 caller must provide complete **vehicle license plate number and vehicle description**
 - The **location** must be provided by the 311 caller
- Parked vehicles were referred to 911

Vehicle Noise Violation

- Results:
 - Timeframe: April 1, 2013 – October 1, 2013
 - 15 vehicles reported by citizens
 - 6 complaints resulted in a Letter of Notification being issued
 - 9 complaints did not provide a valid license plate

Solicitation/Panhandling Initiative

- Dallas City Code, Chapter 31, Sec. 31-35
- Solicitation by Coercion; Solicitation near Designated Locations and Facilities; Solicitation after Sunset; Solicitation-Free Zone
- A person commits an offense if he conducts a solicitation
 - By coercion
 - In any outdoor area anytime between sunset and sunrise
 - In any outdoor area within an established solicitation-free zone
 - CBD, Deep Ellum, Uptown, and Victory Park

Solicitation/Panhandling Initiative

- Patrol and Neighborhood Patrol Officers at several divisions conduct periodic homeless sweeps to eliminate aggressive panhandling and unsightly encampments
- Homeless sweeps are conducted prior to and during peak traffic times

Current Northwest Patrol Initiative

- Results:
 - Timeframe: May 15, 2014 – present
 - 302 contacts made
 - 155 Citations issued
 - 39 Arrest made
 - 108 Pedestrian stops



Summary

The Dallas Police Department will continue to minimize unwelcome disturbance and disruption of privacy while preserving public health, safety, and welfare

Questions??