

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee:
Adam Medrano (Chair), B. Adam McGough (Vice Chair), Sandy Greyson, Tiffinni A. Young,
Jennifer S. Gates, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT: **Juvenile Curfew Ordinance**

On Monday, November 9, 2015, the Public Safety Committee members will be briefed on the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance. The materials are attached for your review.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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



Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

Public Safety Committee
November 9, 2015



David O. Brown
Chief Of Police

Purpose

- Provide an overview of the impact of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance on the City of Dallas.
- Provide statistical information relating to enforcement of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance.

Goals

The following departmental goals will continue to be achieved by enforcement of the Dallas Juvenile Curfew Ordinance:

- Change the behavior of juveniles in a positive manner
- Reduce overall crime committed by juvenile offenders, particularly during school hours
- Decrease the number of juvenile victims of violent crimes
- Youth crime reduction strategy contributing to the Dallas Police Department's goal of making Dallas one of the 5 safest large cities

Briefing

- Dallas Juvenile Curfew Ordinance specifies the hours of curfew for daytime during school sessions and nighttime curfew year round.
- Daytime curfew hours are 9:00 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. during weekdays.
- Nighttime curfew hours are 11:00 P.M. until 6:00 A.M. from Sunday night through Thursday night.
- Weekend night hours are 12:00 A.M. until 6:00 A.M.

Exceptions to Prosecution (Daytime)

- The school in which the minor was enrolled or otherwise required to attend was not in session.
- The minor was participating in a school approved work study program.
- The minor was on an excused absence from school in which the minor was enrolled or otherwise required to attend and had permission from a school official, or in the case of a home-schooled minor, from the minor's parent or guardian.

Exceptions to Prosecution (Nighttime)

- Accompanied by minor's parent/guardian.
- On an errand at the direction of the minor's parent/guardian.
- Engaged in or going to or from an employment activity.
- Involved in an emergency.
- On the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence or neighbors residence.
- Attending, going to or from an official school, religious or recreational activity supervised by adults.

Briefing

- Adopted by the Dallas City Council on June 12, 1991.
- The City of Dallas amended the ordinance on May 18, 2009, to include daytime curfew hours as a violation.
- On April 25, 2012, the ordinance was renewed.
- Texas Local Government Code requires the curfew ordinance be renewed every three years.
- Dallas Juvenile Curfew Ordinance expired on May 1, 2015.

Briefing (continued)

- Prior to the daytime curfew, the average number of juveniles arrested each year for property crimes was 307.
- Since the daytime curfew hours were added, the average number of juveniles arrested each year for property crimes has dropped to 228, a reduction of 26%.
- Since 2012, arrests of juveniles during daytime curfew hours for property crimes have dropped by 11%.

Briefing (continued)

- Prior to the daytime curfew, the average number of juveniles arrested each year for violent crimes was 100.
- Since the daytime curfew hours were added, the average number of juveniles arrested each year for violent crimes has dropped to 87, a reduction of 13%.

Summary

- Violent and property crimes committed by juveniles during daytime hours have been reduced since the enactment of the curfew ordinance.
- Most juveniles cited for Section 31-33 Daytime Curfew are placed in a 1-day life skills class.
 - Successful completion results in the charge being dismissed

Questions?