Juvenile Curfew Renewal

Public Safety Committee
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Presentation Overview

- Goals
- Background / History
- Exceptions to Prosecution
- Statistics
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- Next Steps
The following departmental goals will continue to be achieved by implementation 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
Background / History

• The city of Dallas began enforcement of a juvenile curfew on May 1, 1994

• Texas Local Government Code requires renewal every third year

• February 18, 2019, curfew penalties were decriminalized

• The current ordinance expires March 4, 2022
• **Current Ordinance:**
  • Less than 17 years of age
  • Curfew hours are
    • 11pm-6am Sunday-Thursday night
    • 12am-6am Friday and Saturday night (Saturday/Sunday morning)
    • 9am-2:30pm Monday-Friday (daytime school curfew)
  • Requires a warning for the first offense
  • Enforced through V-citations only
  • Penalties and services assigned through community court
Exceptions to Prosecution (Nighttime)

• Accompanied by minor's parent / guardian
• On an errand at the direction of the minor’s parent / guardian
• Engaged in, 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
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
• Under the prior ordinance
  • 2017: 280 curfew citations issued
  • 2018: 286 curfew citations issued
Statistics

• Since last renewal February 18, 2019 – December 2021:
  • 64 curfew citations issued
  • 27 curfew warnings issued

Curfew Citations Issued

- 39 citations in 2019
- 13 citations in 2020
- 12 citations in 2021
Statistics

Juvenile Victims

- 2018: 424
- 2019: 535
- 2020: 447
- 2021(YTD): 361
Statistics

Juvenile Victims

- **Total**
  - 2018: 424
  - 2019: 535
  - 2020: 447
  - 2021(YTD): 361

- **Night Curfew Hours**
  - 2018: 108
  - 2019: 137
  - 2020: 143
  - 2021(YTD): 113

- **Day Curfew Hours**
  - 2018: 48
  - 2019: 76
  - 2020: 54
  - 2021(YTD): 39

2018-2021 (YTD)
Recommendation

• The Dallas Police Department recommends renewal of the juvenile curfew ordinance in its current form for another three years
Next Steps

• If it is the direction of the Public Safety Committee to renew, an agenda item will be placed January 26, 2022, for Dallas City Council approval

• The Dallas Police Department will release a reminder training bulletin of the juvenile curfew process to employees