

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE December 14, 2018

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Juvenile Curfew Ordinance**

The Texas Local Government Code requires that the City of Dallas conduct public hearings on the need to continue, abolish, or modify the juvenile curfew ordinance every three years. In order for the ordinance to be reinstated, City Council must conduct two (2) public hearings prior to a final vote. The vote by the City Council usually takes place at the end of the second public hearing. Therefore, it takes several council sessions to complete this process.

The current ordinance is set to expire on January 18, 2019. Before presenting the ordinance to City Council for consideration, the Dallas Police Department is exploring alternatives to a juvenile curfew and a modification to the ordinance previously approved by Council. Several cities and police departments, including the Austin Police Department, have done away with their curfew ordinance and are exploring alternatives to arrest for young people who violate curfew.

A concern often expressed in the use of a juvenile curfew is they result in disproportionate minority contact through enforcement. In order to ensure that there is no disproportionate impact, the Dallas Police Department is currently researching a variety of resources to determine a sustainable plan that creates a continuum of community-based alternatives to the juvenile justice system. The department plans to present a new proposed ordinance to the public safety criminal justice committee before next summer that incorporates proactive youth engagement alternatives by police that ensures the safety and security of juveniles without criminalization through the legal system.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Chief U. Renee Hall or myself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Fortune".

Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (I)
Carol A. Smith, City Auditor (I)
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager & Chief Resilience Officer
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Directors and Assistant Directors