



Dallas Police Department

Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

February 21, 2006

Background

- **The Juvenile Curfew Ordinance was adopted in 1991.**
- **The ordinance was challenged in court in 1992.**
- **In 1994, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a lower court decision favorable to the ordinance to stand.**
- **Enforcement of the ordinance began May 1, 1994.**
- **State law requires that the ordinance be reviewed and re-approved every 3 years.**
- **The ordinance was extended by the Council in 1997, 2000 and again in 2003.**

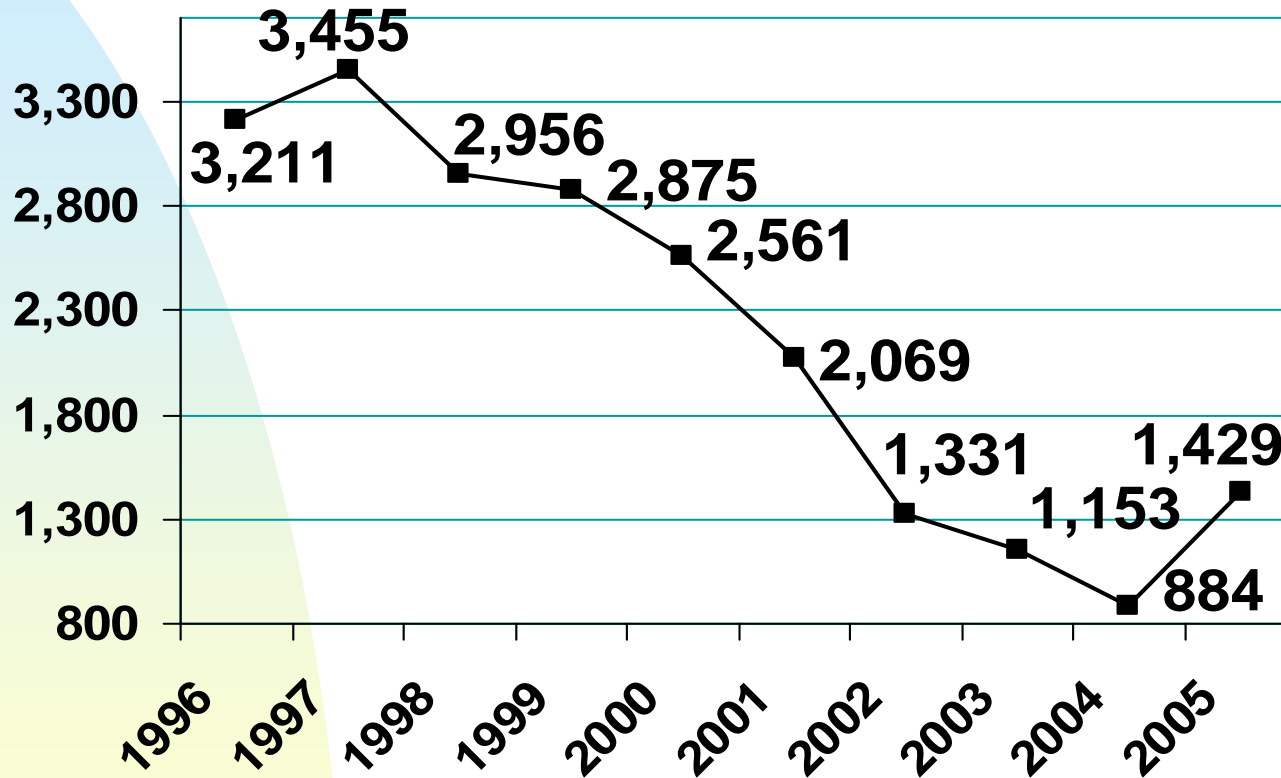
Current Enforcement

- **The curfew hours are 11 PM - 6 AM, Sunday through Thursday and 12 AM - 6 AM, Friday and Saturday.**
- **Officers must ensure that the juvenile does not have a defense to prosecution before enforcement is taken.**
- **Parents may be issued a citation for allowing a juvenile to violate the ordinance.**
- **Business owners and operators may be cited for allowing juveniles to remain on premises during curfew hours.**
- **The penalty for violation of the ordinance is a fine of up to \$500.**

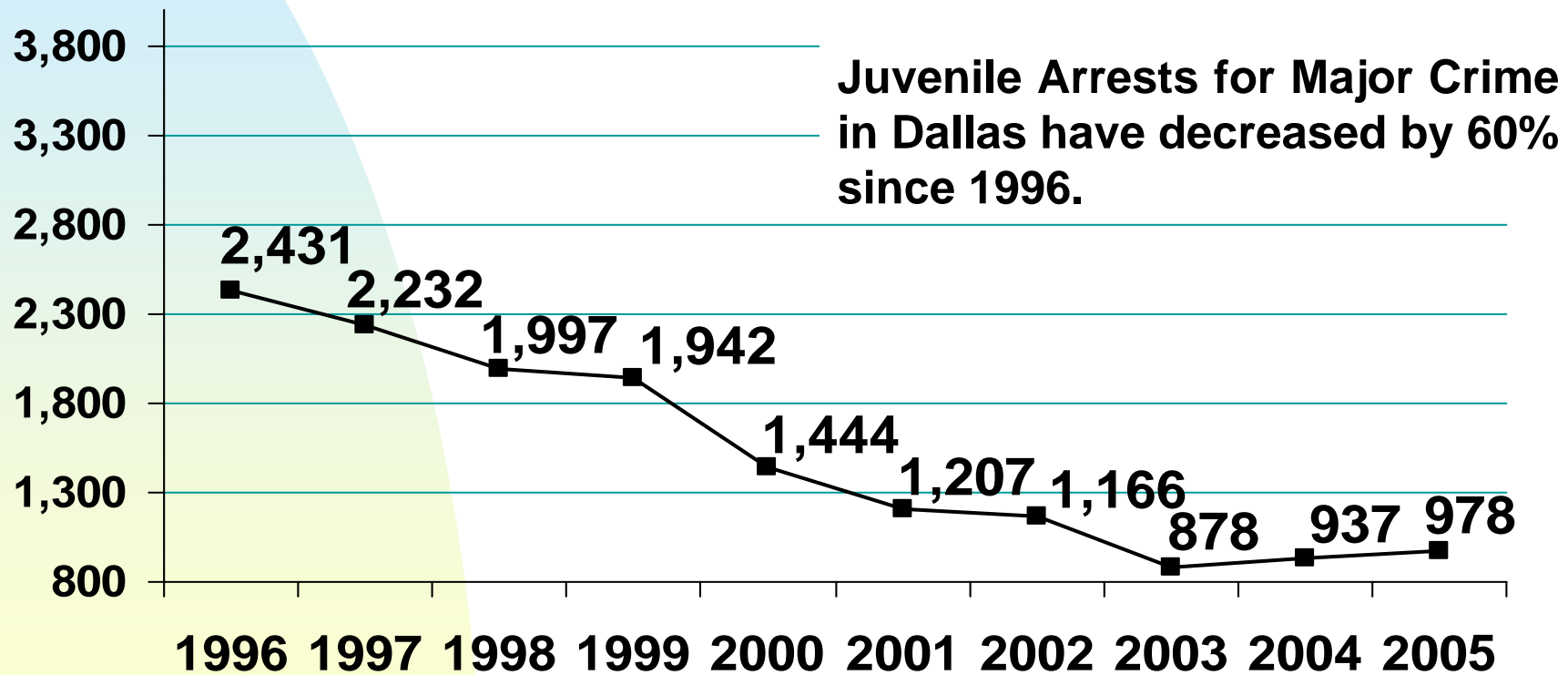
Enforcement Alternatives

- **If a violation is observed, the juvenile may be:**
 - ◆ **Warned;**
 - ◆ **Issued a field interrogation report;**
 - ◆ **Sent home;**
 - ◆ **Taken home;**
 - ◆ **Issued a citation; or**
 - ◆ **Taken into custody.**

Citations Issued for Curfew Violations 1996 - 2005



Juvenile Arrests for Major Crime 1996 - 2005



Recommendation

- **The Juvenile Curfew Ordinance is a major factor in the reduction of juvenile crime and juvenile victims of crime.**
- **The ordinance has become a national model for curfew enforcement.**
- **The ordinance has been reviewed through the entire judicial system and is constitutional.**
- **This item has been placed on the March 8, 2006 Council Agenda for the first public hearing, and again on April 26, 2006 for the final public hearing and City Council vote.**
- **It is recommended that the City Council readopt and continue in effect for another 3 years the City of Dallas Juvenile Curfew Ordinance.**



QUESTIONS?