

City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dallas Police to begin enforcing daytime juvenile curfew

(Dallas) - The Dallas Police Department will begin enforcing a daytime juvenile curfew as of August 24, 2009, the first day of classes for area public schools.

The ordinance, adopted by the City Council in May, prohibits students under age 17 from being in a public place or business between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. when school is in session. Violators will be returned to school, and can be given a citation. The Class C misdemeanor carries a maximum fine of \$500.

The ordinance has three aims:

1. Keep students in school where they belong
2. Protect minors from becoming victims of crime
3. Protect the public from juvenile offenders

Upon encountering a possible violator, the police officer is obliged to determine if the student has a legitimate reason to be off campus, as allowed in the ordinance. For example, the student's school may not be in session, or the student is on an approved field trip. If one of the numerous exceptions applies, and no other reason exists to detain the student, he or she is free to go.

Recognizing that the goal is to change truant behavior, City of Dallas prosecutors plan to recommend to the courts that most minors and their parents or guardians be given the opportunity to take relevant courses or workshops in lieu of paying a fine.

Owners, operators or employees of a business can also be cited for knowingly allowing a minor to be on the premises during curfew hours. Violators will be warned first, and only cited after repeat offenses.

For more information, see www.dallascityhall.com