City of Austin Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

Austin Police Department
June 18, 2008
Juvenile Curfew History

- In May 1990, the City of Austin instituted a Juvenile Curfew Ordinance in an attempt to address a rising juvenile crime rate.

- According to state law, the ordinance will expire unless it is reviewed and readopted every three years.

- The ordinance was last reviewed and renewed on August 4, 2005.
Sets Curfew Hours

The juvenile curfew ordinance currently resides in the Austin City Code, Title 9, Prohibited Activities, Chapter 9-3, Non-Emergency Curfews.

- The ordinance sets curfew hours for juveniles (under 17 years) in three geographic areas:
  - Citywide
  - Areas 1 and 2 (downtown entertainment district)
  - Area 3 (southeast part of Austin)
Curfew Area 3, Southeast
APD Recommendations

APD recommends continuing this ordinance as it enhances our commitment to the Austin community in achieving our mission — Keeping you, your family and our community safe

APD proposes to modify the ordinance to provide consistent enforcement times
Juvenile Crime

Arrests: Juvenile vs. Adult

- 1987-1989:
  - 12%
  - 88,586
- 2002-2004:
  - 7%
  - 175,336
- 2005-2007:
  - 7%
  - 190,681

[Diagram showing arrests by decade for juveniles and adults]
## Current Curfew Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>NIGHT CURFEW</th>
<th>DAY CURFEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citywide</td>
<td>11:30 pm – 6:00 am (Sun – Thurs)</td>
<td>9:00 am – 2:30 pm (Mon – Fri, when school is in session)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 am – 6:00 am (Fri – Sat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Areas 1 and 2</td>
<td>10:00 pm – 6:00 am (any day)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area 3</td>
<td>11:00 pm – 6:00 am (Sun – Thurs)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midnight – 6:00 am (Fri – Sat)</td>
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</tbody>
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Proposed Modifications

Citywide nighttime curfew between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday, and between midnight and 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Amendment eliminates Curfew Area No. 3, in southeast Austin. That area would be covered by the general city-wide curfew provisions.
Proposed Modifications

- Areas 1 and 2 share a common boundary with curfew hours from 10 pm – 6 am any day of the week.
- APD recommends combining Curfew Area No. 1 and No. 2, and change the name of that area to the "Downtown Entertainment District Curfew Area"
- Set the curfew time for that area to apply between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any day.

[Logos: Austin Police Department and Texas State Police]