

ORDINANCE NO. 20170209-028

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO ESCORT VEHICLES AND PROCESSIONS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. City Code Section 13-3-11 (*Restrictions on Escort*) is amended to add a new subsection (C) to read:

(C) An escort may not enter an intersection against a red traffic signal. After an escort enters the intersection, the escort may block other traffic from entering the intersection for as long as necessary for the procession to clear the intersection.

PART 2. City Code Section 13-3-12 (*Escort Vehicle Requirements*) is amended to read:

§ 13-3-12 - ESCORT VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS.

(A) A person may not use a vehicle as an escort vehicle unless it complies with this section.

(B) An escort vehicle must:

- (1) be in good mechanical condition;
- (2) display current registration [~~and inspection stickers~~]; [~~and~~]
- (3) meet insurance requirements prescribed by state law;
- (4) be equipped with a red, white, or blue beacon, a flashing or alternating light, and an emergency siren; and
- (5) have additional equipment required by the police chief, if applicable.

(C) An escort vehicle may be [~~must be equipped with~~] an emergency vehicle owned by a law enforcement agency that is marked with official insignias.

- ~~(1) two lamps that display a red light visible from the center front of the vehicle;~~
- ~~(2) additional equipment required by the police chief, if applicable~~

~~(D) An escort vehicle may not:~~

~~(1) be equipped with a siren; or~~

~~(2) display a decal, sign, or other insignia that resembles a police or law enforcement officer's badge; or~~

~~(3) bear the words "Police," "Officer," or "Official."]~~

PART 3. City Code Section 13-3-14 (*Driver in Escorted Procession or Transport*) is amended to add a new subsection (C) to read:

§ 13-3-14 - DRIVER IN ESCORTED PROCESSION OR TRANSPORT.

(C) Any person driving a vehicle in an escorted procession shall turn on their emergency flashers and headlights.

PART 4. City Code Section 13-3-23 (*Route*) is amended to read:

§ 13-3-23 - ROUTE.

(A) A funeral director shall select the route for an unescorted funeral procession.

(B) ~~[An escort may change the funeral procession route only for safety reasons.]~~ The escort shall select the route for all escorted funeral processions.

PART 5. Subsection (A) of City Code Section 13-3-25 (*Hours for Procession*) is amended to read:

§ 13-3-25 - HOURS FOR PROCESSION.

(A) Except as provided in Subsection (B), a funeral procession may not travel on City streets on Monday through Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ~~[and]~~ or between ~~[4:30]~~ 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. ~~[on Monday through Friday.]~~

PART 6. City Code Section 13-3-31 (*Speed Limit*) is amended to read:

§ 13-3-31 - SPEED LIMIT.

A person driving a vehicle in an escorted funeral procession shall drive 10 miles below the posted speed limit unless:

- (1) the reduced speed violates a posted minimum speed limit; or
- (2) ~~[safety conditions require a different speed.]~~ the escort directs a different speed.

PART 7. City Code Section 13-3-32 (*Number of Escort Vehicles Required*) is amended to read:

§ 13-3-32 - NUMBER OF ESCORT VEHICLES REQUIRED.

The ratio of escort vehicles to vehicles comprising a funeral procession, including mortuary vehicles is:

- (1) at least one escort vehicle for a maximum of 10 vehicles;
- (2) at least two escort vehicles for more than 10 and not more than ~~[50]~~ 30 vehicles; and
- (3) at least three escort vehicles for more than ~~[50]~~ 30 vehicles.

PART 8. This ordinance takes effect on February 20, 2017.

PASSED AND APPROVED

February 9, 2017

APPROVED:


Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

§
§
§


Steve Adler
Mayor

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk