END DALLAS' YOUTH CURFEW

Young people who are out late or may not be in school during the day may need special services, resources, or simple guidance. Others may work late-night jobs to provide for themselves or their family. Some are homeless. None should be saddled with tickets, court time, or a criminal record.

FOUR THINGS TO KNOW

Under Dallas' Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (JCO), youth who are out between

**9 A.M. AND 2:30 P.M.**
on a school day

**OR 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M.**
can be charged with a

**CLASS C MISDEMEANOR.**

**YOUTH BETWEEN 10 AND 16**

years old can be sent to

**ADULT CRIMINAL COURT**

without an attorney. They may face

**FINES UP TO $500**

and end up with a

**CRIMINAL RECORD.**

**Youth of color in Dallas are overrepresented and over-ticketed.**

From 2017-2018, about 88% of Curfew tickets were issued to Black and Latinx youth, even though Black and Latinx people are only 66% of Dallas’ population.

**THE IMPACT**

Research shows this type of justice system contact is harmful for youth, making it less likely they will succeed in school and more likely that they will have future court and police interactions.

**CRIMINAL COURT CONTACT IS HARMFUL AND MAY BE EVEN MORE PROBLEMATIC FOR UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Media reports show that ICE monitors courts, even for class C misdemeanors.
Juvenile crime rates have decreased nationally and internationally, including in cities that do not have curfews.

Waco eliminated its juvenile curfew ordinance in 2014 and Austin ended its in 2017. Since then, there has been no increase in the juvenile citation or arrest rate in either city.

Put simply, this suggests that curfews are an ineffective means of reducing both crime and victimization.

Policy Recommendations

There are ways that Dallas can support its young people without ticketing them and be a leader in youth justice in Texas:

Utilize existing resources within the city to provide non-law enforcement interventions to youth

End the juvenile curfew in Dallas

Ensure that officers, orgs, youth, and families are aware of services and supports in the city

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