



CITY OF HOUSTON – CITY COUNCIL

Proposition A Council Member Item:
Prevention of Median and Roadway Blockage

Summary: ORDINANCE to prevent people from standing in the medians and roadways.

Background: The Houston Code of Ordinances does not prevent pedestrians from standing and walking on medians, which has led to potential nuisance and dangers to pedestrians and vehicles.

Specific Explanation: This ordinance would prevent pedestrians from standing on medians or divided roadways.

Proposal:

The following shall be added as Section 45-111 of the Houston Code of Ordinances, which is currently reserved:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 45 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, ADDING SECTION 45-111 PROHIBITING SITTING, STANDING, AND WALKING ON MEDIANS STRIPS MEASURING SIX FEET OR LESS IN WIDTH AND ON DIVIDED ROADWAYS WHERE NO MEDIANS STRIP EXISTS.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that while the City of Houston is only 7.4% of the population of Texas, it was responsible for 15.6% of the accidents and 15.0% of the traffic fatalities in the State in 2024.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that according to the Houston Police Department statistics, 33.9% of those killed in traffic accidents are pedestrians, which is up nearly 2% since the City's 2020 Vision Zero Action plan was published.

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that Houston's socially vulnerable communities are at greater risk than the rest of the population and as such, there is a need to protect pedestrians, especially those from vulnerable communities.

WHEREAS, the City desires to restrict people from sitting, standing or walking on a median that measures six feet or less, where they would be among the most vulnerable; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:**

The findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are adopted as a part of this Ordinance.

Chapter 45 of the Code of Ordinances, Houston, Texas, is amended by adding a new Section 45-111 as follows:

Sec. 45-111. Sitting, standing, and walking in certain areas prohibited.

- (a) Except as otherwise permitted by law, a person commits an offense if the person sits, stands or walks on a median strip that measures six feet or less in width or in areas between divided roadways where no median strip exists (b) This section does not apply if the person:
- (1) is crossing a divided roadway in the most direct route possible;
 - (2) is the victim of or rendering aid in an emergency situation or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer;
 - (3) is performing work in the right-of-way in accordance with a permit issued under another section of this code; or
 - (4) has prior authorization from the city or is otherwise in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

* * *

Respectfully submitted pursuant to Article VII, Section 3 of the Houston City Charter by:



Council Member Mary Nan Huffman, District G



Council Member Amy Peck, District A



Council Member Fred Flickinger, District E