

Title: City Code Revisions - Regulation of Activity within Public Streets and Rights-of-Way
Meeting Date: July 1, 2025
Meeting Type: City Council Meeting - First Tuesday - Afternoon & Evening Sessions
Department: City Attorney's Office
Sponsor: Karen McDonald

Agenda Content:

In response to community concerns about pedestrian and motorist safety related to activities occurring in street medians, the Raleigh Police Department, the Transportation Department, and the City Attorney's Office have proposed revisions to the City Code of Ordinances. The revisions aim to clarify and further define existing rules regulating such activity.

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A draft ordinance is included with the agenda item and requires two readings for enactment. The City Council initially approved the ordinance on its first reading on June 17, 2025. The ordinance now appears for a second and final reading. Should the Council wish to adopt the changes, it would be appropriate to enact the ordinance.

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If approved, the ordinance will become effective November 1, 2025, to allow adequate time for Raleigh Police and Transportation to develop a signage plan, finalize signage content, develop a communication plan regarding the changes and to install the signs.

Recommended Action: Enact the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. (2025) _____

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AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF RALEIGH
CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CLARIFY REGULATIONS ON ACTIVITY
WITHIN MEDIANS OF STREETS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY IN THE CITY

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WHEREAS, in response to concerns over the safety of pedestrians and motorists from activity within the medians of City streets and right-of-way, the City Attorney's Office, the Raleigh Police Department, and the Transportation Department have recommended certain revisions to the City Code of Ordinances (the "City Code") to improve safety and clarify the existing regulations of such activity within the City Code; and

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WHEREAS, the City Council desires to revise the City Code to incorporate the suggested revisions.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH THAT:

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SECTION 1. City Code Section 12-1026 shall be amended to delete subsection (d) in its entirety.

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SECTION 2. A new section shall be added to the City Code as Section 11-2154 and shall read as follows:

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Sec. 11-2154. – Approaching Motor Vehicles.

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No person shall stand, sit, or loiter in the right-of-way of any streets in the City, including on any median or median strip in a manner that impedes the normal movement of traffic. The provisions of this section shall not apply to licensees, employees or contractors of the Department of Transportation or City or other government employees engaged in construction or maintenance or in making traffic or engineering surveys or performing other official duties.

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SECTION 2. City Code Section 13-2031(c) shall be amended to add the following paragraphs at the end of that subsection:

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(10) By approaching a motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting contributions from the driver or another occupant of the motor vehicle in a manner that impedes the normal movement of traffic.

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(11) By sitting, lying, or standing in the street, roadway, median, or median strip in a manner that poses a risk of injury to any person. This section does not prohibit a person from taking such actions while safely crossing a roadway.

SECTION 3. A new section shall be added to the City Code as Section 11-2155 and shall read as follows:

Sec. 11-2155. – High-Incident Risk Intersections.

No person shall stand, sit, lie, or loiter on a median or median strip of a street for any purpose other than crossing the roadway when the median has a width of less than six (6) feet at any point; or has been identified and posted by the City or any other governmental entity as a High-Incident Risk Intersection.

Violation of this section is a misdemeanor and may also be enforced through issuance of a civil penalty pursuant to §14-1005, through injunctive or other equitable relief, or a combination of remedies.

SECTION 4. If this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given separate effect and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be enforced as provided in N.C.G.S. 160A-175 or as provided in the Raleigh City Code of Ordinances. All criminal sanctions shall be the maximum allowed by law notwithstanding the fifty-dollar limit in N.C.G.S. 14-4(a) or similar limitations.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be effective November 1, 2025.

First Reading: June 17, 2025

Adopted:

Effective: November 1, 2025

Distribution: City Manager – Adams-David

City Attorney – McDonald, Poole, Walton, Hargrove-Bailey

Police – Boyce

Prepared by the City Attorney's Office