



INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Services & Safety Committee

FROM: Chief Eric Drever

BY: Sgt. Bill Devlin

CC: Mayor Ekberg

DATE: 11/13/2023

SUBJECT: Avoidance of Intersection Ordinance

ISSUE

Increase public safety on the city roadways through enforcement and education with a new ordinance. The ordinance would address drivers that avoid signaled intersections by cutting through public and private parking lots or drives.

BACKGROUND

It was brought to the police department's attention via complaints from citizens, and police on-viewing vehicles who were cutting through private and public lots to avoid backups at signaled intersections. These areas just to name a few include Foster High School public parking lot to avoid the signals at the intersection of S. 144th Street and 42nd Ave S. This area is a crosswalk for the students and faculty to ingress and egress through the main front doors of the school, and typically has a large amount of pedestrian traffic. These activities have also been viewed at multiple other locations throughout the city to include 10800 block of East Marginal Way S. with the intersection of Boeing Access and Tukwila International Blvd. In this location vehicles have been seen cutting through several different parking lots and businesses to avoid the signals, as this is a very large and busy intersection. These activities are frequently observed at the Chevron AMPM lot located at 15252 Tukwila International Blvd. Vehicles traveling westbound on Southcenter Blvd, will cut through this lot, to avoid the signals at Southcenter Blvd and Tukwila International Blvd. Westbound vehicles on Southcenter Blvd are also seen cutting through the north lot of the light rail station behind the above mentioned AMPM to avoid the signals at S.154th Street and Tukwila International Blvd.

ANALYSIS

The proposed new ordinance will help decrease the likelihood of injuries and/or property damage by providing Tukwila police with a new tool to educate and enforce drivers cutting through private or public property to avoid a signaled intersection. The police, prosecutor, and city attorney support this ordinance, and have reviewed it for presentation to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is being asked to forward this item to the 12/04/2023 Regular City Council Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Avoidance of Intersection ordinance.

DRAFT

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING TUKWILA MUNICIPAL CODE (TMC) SECTION 9.28.038, "AVOIDING AN INTERSECTION"; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to improve traffic safety and pedestrian safety throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, motorists avoiding intersections disrupts the orderly flow of traffic and increases the likelihood of vehicle and/or pedestrian collisions; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish regulations, as set forth herein, to prohibit avoidance of an intersection;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Adoption of Findings of Fact. The City Council hereby adopts the foregoing recitals and incorporates them herein as support for this ordinance.

Section 2. Regulations Established. Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC) Section 9.28.038 is hereby established to read as follows:

9.28.038 Avoiding an Intersection

It is unlawful for any person operating a motor vehicle on the roadways of the City, upon approaching or leaving an intersection, to proceed across any public or private property in such a way as to avoid the intersection or any traffic control device controlling the intersection, unless so directed by lawful authority.

Section 3. Corrections by City Clerk or Code Reviser Authorized. Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the code reviser are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including the correction of scrivener's errors; references to other local, state, or federal laws, codes, rules, or regulations; or ordinance numbering and section/subsection numbering.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance or its application to any person or situation should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to any other person or situation.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance or a summary thereof shall be published in the official newspaper of the City and shall take effect and be in full force five days after passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON, at a Regular Meeting thereof this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Christy O'Flaherty, MMC, City Clerk

Allan Ekberg, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY:

Filed with the City Clerk: _____

Passed by the City Council: _____

Published: _____

Effective Date: _____

Ordinance Number: _____

Office of the City Attorney