



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Councilman Alan E. Warrick, II, District 2 & Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Civil Penalty for Bus Stop-Arm Violations
DATE: April 7, 2016

Issue Proposed for Consideration

We ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

Directing staff to research best practices from other Texas cities and make appropriate recommendations for an ordinance that would create a civil penalty for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus while loading and unloading students.

Brief Background

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA"), children are at greatest risk when they are getting on or off the school bus. Most of the children killed in bus-related crashes are pedestrians, five to seven years old, and nearly 1/3rd of the deaths occur in the 10-foot area surrounding the school bus because of passing motorists who ignore the flashing red warning lights and disregard a bus' deployed stop-arm.

Section 54.066 of the Texas Transportation Code creates a criminal offense for passing a stopped school bus that is operating certain visual signs, including stop arms, while loading and unloading students. However, enforcement is difficult due to the large number of school buses en route at various locations during morning and afternoon commutes.

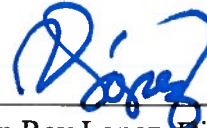
Since 2012, at least 16 Texas municipalities have passed civil penalty ordinances for bus stop-arm violations including Dallas, Austin, and San Marcos. This has resulted in a significant decrease in the incidents of violations. After the first year of operation in the City of Dallas, a twenty-five (25%) percent decrease in the number of violations was reported.

Time is of the essence. The risk of injury or death to our most precious resource- our children- is far too great to sit idle while other municipalities have successfully proven the ability to increase compliance and thus security and safety around school buses.

Submitted for Council consideration by:



Councilman Alan E. Warrick, II, District 2

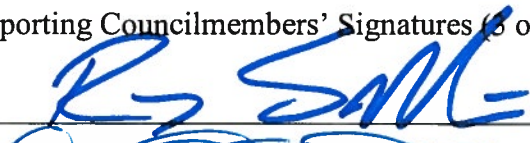


Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (3 only)

District

1.



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2.



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3.



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