

Ordinance 06-02-2026

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A JUVENILE CURFEW WITHIN THE CITY OF DALEVILLE, ALABAMA; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS, CURFEW HOURS, EXCEPTIONS, ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES, PENALTIES, AND RELATED MATTERS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALEVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 - Purpose

The City Council finds that the presence of unsupervised juveniles in public places during late-night hours may contribute to juvenile victimization, delinquency, vandalism, and other threats to public health, safety, and welfare. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the safety and well-being of minors and the community by establishing reasonable curfew times.

Section 2 - Definitions

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this ordinance, should have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

City means the City of Daleville, Dale County, Alabama, with administrative offices at 740 S. Daleville Ave., Daleville, Alabama 36322.

Minor/Juvenile means any person 17 years of age or younger and not emancipated.

Parent means any person having legal custody of a minor:

- (1) As a natural adoptive;
- (2) As a legal guardian;
- (3) As a person who stands in loco parentis; or
- (4) As a person to whom legal custody has been given by order of court.

Street means a way or place, of whatsoever nature, open to the use of the public as a matter of rights for purposes of vehicular travel or, in the case of a sidewalk, for pedestrian travel. The term "street" includes the legal right-of-way including, but not limited to, the cartway or traffic lanes, the curb, the sidewalks (whether paved or unpaved), and any grass plots or other grounds found within the legal right-of-way of a street. The term "street" applies irrespective of what it is called or formally named, whether an alley, avenue, court, road or otherwise.

Time of night means based upon the prevailing standard of time whether Central Standard Time or Central Daylight-Saving Time, generally observed at that hour by the public in the city, and prima facie the time then observed in the city administrative offices and police station.

Section 3 – Curfew Restrictions / Parental Responsibility

(a) It is unlawful for any minor 17 years of age or younger to loiter, wander, stroll or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, public buildings, places of amusement, eating places, vacant lots or any place unsupervised by an adult having the lawful authority to be at such places, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. on any day and 6:00 a.m. of the following day; provided, however, that on Fridays and Saturdays the effective hours are between 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. of the following day; and provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply in the following instances:

- (1) When a minor is accompanied by his parent or guardian having the lawful care and custody of the minor;
- (2) When the minor is upon an emergency errand directed by his parent or guardian having the lawful care and custody of such minor;
- (3) When the minor is returning directly home from a school activity, entertainment, recreational activity or dance;
- (4) When the minor is going to or returning directly home from lawful employment that makes it necessary to be in the places described in subsection (a)(3) of this section during the prescribed period of time;
- (5) When the minor is attending or traveling directly to or from an activity involving the exercise of first amendment rights of free speech, freedom of assembly or free exercise of religion;
- (6) When the minor is in a motor vehicle with parental consent for normal travel in interstate and intrastate travel through the city.

(b) It shall be unlawful for the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or control of any child 17 years of age or younger to permit, or by insufficient control to allow, such child to be in or upon the public streets or any other places listed in subsection (a) of this section within the city between the hours of 10:00 p.m. on any day and 6:00 a.m. the following day, or on Fridays and Saturdays, between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. the following day except in circumstances set out in subsection (a)(1)—(a)(6) of this section.

(c) Proof that a parent received written notice of prior curfew violation and thereafter the minor committed a subsequent curfew violation shall constitute prima facie evidence that the parent knowingly permitted the violation.

Section 4 - Penalty for Violation of Curfew

Upon a violation of this ordinance for the first time, a parent should be given a warning citation. A parent, upon further violations, should be summoned to municipal court and if convicted, may be fined up to \$500.00 and/or six months in jail. Upon further violations, a

minor/juvenile shall be subject to and dealt with under proper procedure in juvenile court pursuant to state law. Each violation of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 5 - Police Procedures

(a) A police officer of the city, upon finding or having attention called to any minor on the streets in violation of this ordinance, normally shall take the minor to the police station, where a parent shall immediately be notified to come for such minor, whereupon they shall be questioned. This is intended to permit ascertainment, under constitutional safeguards, of relevant facts, and to centralize responsibility in the supervisor there and then on duty for accurate, effective, fair, impartial and uniform enforcement and recording, thus making available experienced supervisory personnel, the best of facilities and access to information and records. In the absence of convincing evidence such as a birth certificate or driver's license, a police officer on the street shall in the first instance use his best judgment in determining age.

(b) Police procedures shall constantly be refined in the light of experience and may provide, inter alia, that the police officer may deliver to a parent thereof a minor under appropriate circumstances, for example a minor of tender age near home whose identity and address may readily be ascertained or are known.

(c) In any event, such police officer shall, within 24 hours, file a written report with the chief of police, or shall participate to the extent of the information for which he is responsible in the preparation by himself and the supervisor involved in such case, and in the filing of such report within 24 hours.

(d) When a parent, immediately called, has come to take charge of the minor, and the appropriate information has been recorded, the minor shall be released to the custody of such parent. If the parent cannot be located, or fails to take charge of the minor, then the minor shall be released to the juvenile authorities, except to the extent that in accordance with police regulations, approved in advance by juvenile authorities, the minor may temporarily be entrusted to a relative, neighbor or other person who will on behalf of a parent assume the responsibility of caring for the minor pending the availability or arrival of a parent.

(e) In the case of a first violation by a minor, the chief of police shall, by certified mail, send to a parent written notice of such violation with a warning that any subsequent violation will result in full enforcement of this ordinance, including enforcement of parental responsibility and of applicable penalties.

Section 6 - Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or portion of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 7 - Repealer

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict. not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication as required by law.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF June, 2026.

ATTEST:

Augein Gilmore

City Clerk

[Signature]

Mayor

[Signature]

City Council

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City Council

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City Council

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City Council

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