



Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866



J. Dent-Fitzpatrick
Assistant Chief

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police

L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Brittany Santiago
706-225-4462

Columbus City Council Approves Temporary Uptown Curfew for Unsupervised Minors

The Columbus City Council has approved a temporary curfew ordinance for unsupervised minors in Uptown Columbus. The ordinance will take effect 10 days after Mayor Skip Henderson signs it and will remain in effect through September 30, 2026, unless extended by City Council.

The ordinance applies only to Uptown Columbus, which includes the area from 8th Street to 14th Street between 2nd Avenue and Bay Avenue.

Under the ordinance, individuals under the age of 18 may not remain in public places within Uptown Columbus between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult with lawful authority to supervise them, or unless they fall within one of the ordinance's listed exceptions.

The ordinance was adopted in response to ongoing concerns involving large groups of unsupervised minors gathering in Uptown during late evening and overnight hours. Police officers, business owners, and community stakeholders have reported incidents involving disruptive behavior, trespassing, fights, shootings, and other activity impacting public safety and local businesses.

The Columbus Police Department (CPD) has documented hundreds of calls for service and arrests within Uptown Columbus in recent years. Many of those incidents have occurred during evening hours and involved large groups of unsupervised minors.

“This ordinance is not about punishing kids. It is temporary and will end at the end of the summer,” said Chief Stoney Mathis. “Most of all, we need the help of parents. This is an overall strategic step to reduce crime, and we can’t do it alone. This is not about keeping kids out of Uptown. It’s about keeping people safe.”

The Columbus Police Department will continue working with parents, business owners, residents, and community partners to educate the public about the ordinance and ensure consistent enforcement.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the ordinance, understand its requirements, and remain actively involved in knowing where their children are and who they are with during evening hours.

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