



City of Winston-Salem City Council
Council Agenda Item Summary

Title	Ordinance Amending Chapter 38 of the City Code to Create a New Article VIII Entitled “Youth Protection” to Protect Juveniles by Establishing a Curfew
City Council Committee	City Council
Meeting Date	6/15/2026
Staff Lead (Presenter)	Lt. Joel Morissette
Department Head	Police Chief William Penn, Jr.
City Manager/ACM	Dr. Angel Wright-Lanier, ACM

Agenda Item Summary

Recommended Council Action	Approval
Suggested Action/ Motion Options	Motion to Approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 38 to Create a New Article Entitled “Youth Protection”
Strategic Focus Area	Livable Community
Strategic Plan Objective	LC1: Enhancing Residents' Sense of Safety and Reducing Crime
Anticipated Fiscal Impact	No Material Fiscal Impact

Summary of Information

The Winston-Salem Police Department has identified ongoing concerns related to juvenile victimization, large youth gatherings, disorderly conduct, and criminal activity occurring during late-night hours. Similar youth curfew ordinances have been adopted by municipalities throughout North Carolina and across the nation as part of broader strategies to enhance public safety, reduce juvenile crime, and promote youth accountability.

The proposed Youth Safety Curfew Ordinance would establish a curfew for individuals under the age of 18 within public places and businesses throughout the City of Winston-Salem between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The ordinance includes reasonable exemptions for juveniles engaged in employment, school-sponsored activities, religious events, emergencies, and circumstances in which the juvenile is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult authorized by the parent or guardian.

The Winston-Salem Police Department is asking for the adoption of the Youth Safety Curfew Ordinance to establish curfew hours for juveniles, under the age of 18, during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. at public places and businesses within the City and provide law enforcement with an additional tool to enhance public safety, reduce juvenile victimization, and address youth-related crime.

Analysis of Fiscal Impact

No Fiscal Impact

Attachments

PowerPoint Presentation

Committee Action	PS 6/8/2026
For: 2	Against: 1
Remarks: Approved CM Hall - Absent	