



# *Public Safety Committee*

June 8, 2026



# ***Youth Protection Safety Ordinance***

## **Authority**

**NCGS 160A-198 - grants individual municipalities authority to enact local curfews for minors (under age 18)**

A city may by an appropriate ordinance impose a curfew on persons of any age less than 18. (1997-189, s. 1.)

## ***Purpose***

- Protect juveniles from victimization and exposure to criminal activity
- Reinforce and support parental guidance and responsibility
- Promote public safety and security for juveniles and adults
- Improve safety in public places and businesses



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## **Curfew Hours**

- Applies to juveniles age 16 and under
- 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM (Under the age of 13)
- 11:00 PM – 6:00 AM (13- 15)
- Applies 7 days per week

**WSPD Recommends a Curfew of 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM for Juveniles Age 17 and Under**

## **Enforcement Area**

- Citywide
- Public Places and Business



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## **Violations**

- A juvenile is present in a public place during restricted hours
- A parent/guardian knowingly allows the violation
- A business owner knowingly allows juveniles to remain on premises
- An adult aids or abets a juvenile in violating the ordinance

## **Penalties**

- Juveniles may be adjudicated delinquent
- Adults charged under the ordinance face a misdemeanor and mandatory court appearance



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**Juveniles who are in a public place or business during the restricted hours are not in violation of the Charlotte ordinance if they are:**

- Accompanied by a parent or guardian, or by an adult 21 years or older who is authorized to be accompanying the juvenile for the designated period of time and purpose.
- On an errand, using a direct route, until 10:30 p.m. for juveniles under the age of 13 and 11:30 p.m. for juveniles ages 13-15.
- In a motor vehicle, with parental consent, engaged in interstate travel through the city originating or terminating the city.
- Traveling in a motor vehicle with a parent or guardian or other authorized person adult age 21 or older.
- Engaged in lawful employment or using a direct route to or from a place of employment.



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## **Exceptions continued:**

- Reacting or responding to an emergency.
- Attending or traveling to or from an official function sponsored by the schools, a government or religious entity, a civic organization, or other entity that accepts responsibility for the juveniles.
- Exercising first amendment rights such as a free exercise of religion, freedom of speech and the right to assembly.
- Married or emancipated.
- When authorized by special permit from the Chief of Police when the necessary nighttime activities of the juveniles are not adequately addressed by other provisions of this ordinance.



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CMPD's **J.P.O.S.T. Juvenile Priority Offender Strategy Team**. It is a specialized, four-officer unit created in 2024 (building upon an older pilot program) designed to deter high-risk, repeat teen offenders from a continuing life of crime.

## **What the J.P.O.S.T. Unit Does:**

- **Proactive Home Visits:** Officers routinely conduct house calls directly to at-risk teens and their families.
- **Needs Assessment:** The team evaluates the family's situation to identify support needed, assist in finding employment for the youth, and refer them to specialized out-of-town rehabilitation or diversion programs.
- **Close Monitoring:** They maintain constant visibility, checking in on the youths and ensuring they are on the right path.
- **Community Impact:** Paired with the J.A.D.E. (Juvenile Accountability and Diversion Empowerment) unit, J.P.O.S.T. has been highly credited by CMPD leadership for helping drive down juvenile crime in the city.



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**CMPD's JADE** unit: Juvenile Accountability, Diversion, and Empowerment team. Launched to address youth crime and break the cycle of recidivism. Specialized unit focuses on investigating youth offenses, monitoring at-risk juveniles, and conducting home visits to connect families with resources and support.

## **Key Details & Objectives**

- **Focus on Accountability & Support:** While the unit primarily works with at-risk youth and first-time offenders to redirect them onto a better path, it also enforces accountability. If diversion efforts fail, JADE officers can arrest juveniles or even hold parents/guardians accountable through citations.
- **Core Activities:** Daily tasks include targeted juvenile investigations, apprehension of wanted youths, community engagement, and routine home visits to monitor at-risk teens.



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- **Recent Impact:** The unit has played a major role in a city-wide reduction of juvenile recidivism by establishing long-term, proactive engagement with teens and their families.
- **Collaborative Operations:** JADE actively works with local and federal partners such as the Crime Gun Suppression Team and the ATF to investigate organized rings (like youth gun store break-ins) and recover stolen property.

According to CMPD, the implementation of these strategies contributed to a 15% reduction in juvenile crime from 2024 to 2025 and a further 33% decrease during the first part of 2026.

