



# Mineola ISD Police Department

1695 West Loop 564, Mineola, Texas 75773

Office: 903-569-2448 – Fax: 903-569-5155



Howard “Cody” Castleberry III

Chief of Police, School Safety and Emergency Management

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04/04/2024

Chief Charles Bittner,

As you know, the current Mineola Elementary School will cease to exist at 712 West Patten St. beginning in August of 2024. No longer will we have to contend with parents lining up to pick their child up as early as 1:30 p.m. on the westbound Patten St. shoulder. Also, due to the Elementary campus being consumed as part of the High School campus, we will be able to utilize that parking lot for High School students, staff and visitors. This will eliminate the need to have students park on West Patten St. entirely.

At this time I am asking the City of Mineola to extend the current No Parking Zone in the 900 Block West Patten Street to encompass the entire area of West Patten Street from West Loop 564 to Pegues Street, for both westbound and eastbound traffic. This will increase the safety of our students and campuses for the following reasons:

1. All High School students will be required to park on campus, therefore they will have to provide a copy of their current auto insurance and a valid driver's license. Many student drivers who park on West Patten St. do not possess one or the other of those items.
2. Students will not have to dodge traffic passing by as they open their car doors on West Patten St., making a much safer experience while entering and exiting their vehicles.
3. Any vehicle parked in the proposed No Parking Zone will allow law enforcement to contact them to identify why they are parked there, possibly circumventing any nefarious activity and thereby helping to secure our schools.

The High School plans to reroute parent pickup traffic starting in August and we do not anticipate a situation where parents would be backed up onto Patten Street violating the proposed No Parking Zone, but any violation of this manner would be minor and be overlooked by our Agency as a necessary situation. I believe the Transportation code would identify that situation as “Standing, or stopping” rather than parking anyway. The only other situation where we would have cars park on Patten street is for the Bonfire, and my agency would be in favor of granting an exception to the No Parking zone for that event. Another option would be to make the No Parking Zone near the Bonfire location only active during a certain timeframe such as school hours. I hope the City will consider this request and I will assist in any manner necessary to get this done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Castleberry III".

Howard “Cody” Castleberry III

Mineola ISD Police Department

Chief of Police

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING NO PARKING ZONES WITHIN THE CITY OF MINEOLA, TEXAS; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION.**

WHEREAS, the City of Mineola, Texas finds it is in the best interest of its citizens and promotes the health, safety and welfare of the public of the City of Mineola to regulate the parking of vehicles; and

WHEREAS, it is the City's intent to preserve and protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Mineola and improve its parking regulations by restricting vehicular parking in certain areas of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Mineola, Texas as follows:

**I.  
PARKING**

**A. No parking zones.**

Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic laws or the directions of a police officer or official traffic-control device, it shall be unlawful to stop, stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, at the following designated location: entire area of West Patten Street from West Loop 564 to Pegues Street, for both westbound and eastbound traffic.

**B. Signage.**

Subsequent to the passing of this Ordinance, the City shall erect signs informing the public of the parking prohibition referenced in Section I.A.

**II.  
SEVERABILITY**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, subsections and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or illegality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, subsections and sections of this Ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional or illegal phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection or section.

**III.**  
**REPEALER**

Any and all Ordinances of the City of Mineola, Texas in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed, and all other provisions of the Ordinances of the City of Mineola not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**IV.**  
**PENALTY**

Any person, firm or corporation found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), together with the applicable costs of court. Each day during which a violation continues shall be a separate offense.

**V.**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and its publication as required by law and the erection of signs as referenced in Section I.B.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council for the City of Mineola, Texas this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

APPROVED BY:

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Jayne Lankford, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cindy Karch, City Secretary