

COMPARED VERSION
NEW ORDINANCE TO CODE BOOKS

ORDINANCE NO. 250927

Amending Chapter 70, Article XII of the Code of Ordinances, entitled “Traffic Control Signs, Signals, and Devices,” by amending Sections 70-954 of the Code of Ordinances to prohibit right turns in school zones when school zone speed limits are in effect.

WHEREAS, the City has a fundamental responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all residents, particularly the children of Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, the tragic death of an elementary student at an intersection near a school has highlighted the urgent need for enhanced traffic safety measures in school zones; and

WHEREAS, students walking, biking, and traveling to and from school are among our most vulnerable road users and deserve the highest level of protection; and

WHEREAS, school zones experience concentrated periods of pedestrian activity during arrival and dismissal times, creating heightened risk for vehicle-pedestrian conflicts; and

WHEREAS, eliminating right turns on red during school zone hours will reduce potential conflict points between vehicles and student pedestrians, particularly in intersections adjacent to schools; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is consistent with the City's commitment to Vision Zero principles and the goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Kansas City streets; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That Chapter 70, Code of Ordinances of Kansas City, Section 70-954(a)(3)c is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 70-954. -Traffic control signal legend.

(a) — Whenever traffic is controlled by traffic control signals exhibiting different colored lights, or colored lighted arrows, successively one at a time or in combination, only the colors green, red and yellow shall be used, except for special pedestrian signals carrying a word legend, and the lights shall indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians as follows:

(1) ~~(a)~~ Green indication.

a. Vehicular traffic facing a circular green signal may proceed straight through or turn right or left unless a sign at such place prohibits either such turn. But vehicular traffic, including vehicles turning right or left, shall yield the

right-of-way to other vehicles and to pedestrians lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk at the time such signal is exhibited.

b. Vehicular traffic facing a green arrow signal, shown alone or in combination with another indication, may cautiously enter the intersection only to make the movement indicated by such arrow, or such other movement as is permitted by other indications shown at the same time. Such vehicular traffic shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within an adjacent crosswalk and to other traffic lawfully using the intersection.

c. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in section 70-956, pedestrians facing any green signal, except when the sole green signal is a turn arrow, may proceed across the roadway within any marked or unmarked crosswalk.

(2) Steady yellow or yellow arrow indications.

a. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal is thereby warned that the related green movement is being terminated or that a red indication will be exhibited immediately thereafter.

b. Pedestrians facing a steady circular yellow or yellow arrow signal, unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in section 70-956, are thereby advised that there is insufficient time to cross the roadway before a red indication is shown, and no pedestrian shall then start to cross the roadway.

(3) Steady red indication.

a. Vehicular traffic facing a steady circular red signal alone shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until an indication to proceed is shown, except as provided in subsection (a)(3)c of this section.

b. Vehicular traffic facing a steady red arrow signal shall not enter the intersection to make the movement indicated by the arrow, and, unless entering the intersection to make a movement permitted by another signal, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but, if none, before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none, then before entering the intersection, and shall remain standing until an indication permitting the movement indicated by such red arrow is shown, except as provided in subsection (a)(3)c of this section.

c. Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn, vehicular traffic facing any steady red signal may cautiously enter the intersection to turn right, or to turn left from a one-way street into a one-way street, after stopping as required by subsection (a)(3)a or subsection (a)(3)b of this section. After

stopping, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another roadway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time such driver is moving across or within the intersection or junction of roadways. Such driver shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk.

1. School zones. No vehicular traffic shall make a right turn on a steady red signal within a designated school zone during the hours when the school zone speed limit is in effect, regardless of whether a sign is present prohibiting such turn.

d. Unless otherwise directed by a pedestrian control signal as provided in section 70-956, pedestrians facing a steady circular red signal or red arrow signal alone shall not enter the roadway.

(b) — If an official traffic control signal is erected and maintained at a place other than an intersection, the provisions of this section shall be applicable, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application. Any stop required shall be made at a sign or marking on the pavement indicating where the stop shall be made, but in the absence of any such sign or marking the stop shall be made at the signal.

Section 2. That the Director of Public Works is hereby authorized and directed to place and maintain appropriate signage at all affected intersections within school zones to provide notice of the prohibition on right turns on red signals during school zone hours, in accordance with Section 70-951 and in conformance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and design standards of the city department of public works as required by Section 70-952, within 180 days after passage of this ordinance.

Section 3. That for purposes of this ordinance, "school zone" shall mean those areas designated by the Director of Public Works pursuant to applicable traffic control ordinances and identified by appropriate traffic control devices, and "school zone hours" shall mean those times during which reduced school zone speed limits are in effect as posted.

Section 4. The Director of Public Works may grant a waiver from the prohibition on right turns on red signals established in Section 70-954(a)(3)c.1 for specific intersections within school zones only upon written request from a school demonstrating that the prohibition materially hinders the school's pick-up or drop-off operations.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall take effect 180 days after its passage, provided that adequate signage has been installed in accordance with Section 2 of this ordinance.

Approved as to form:

Dustin E. Johnson
Associate City Attorney