



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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**MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL, ALDERMAN THOMAS, ALDERMAN MALDONADO, ALDERMAN MORENO,
ALDERMAN BURNETT, AND ALDERMAN THOMPSON INTRODUCE STRONGER SAFETY MEASURES
FOR STUDENT SAFETY ZONES**

Proposal Increases Gun Penalties Along Safe Passage Routes, Around Schools and Parks

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman Latasha Thomas (17th), Alderman Roberto Maldonado (26th), Alderman Joe Moreno (1st), Alderman Walter Burnett (27th) and Alderman Jo Ann Thompson (16th) are proposing to increase penalties for serious weapon and gun-related offenses in newly created "student safety zones" along Safe Passage routes, in schools buses and around schools and some parks in an ordinance introduced on Wednesday.

"Every child should have access to a quality education, and that includes being safe in the classroom and on the way to and from school," Mayor Emanuel said. "Children should be focused on learning, not worried about their safety. Every city department has a role to play in making sure our kids can safely get to school, but we also need to make sure those who carry or use weapons around school children face stiff penalties for their actions."

The proposed ordinance creates Student Safety Zones that will include:

- Safe passage routes during designated operating hours (Operating hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If there is a school activity after 7 p.m., the associated safe passage route will be in effect until 60 minutes after the school activity ends)
- School buildings during designated operating hours (Operating hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. If there is a school activity after 7 p.m., the zone will be in effect until 60 minutes after the school activity ends)
 - Within 1000 feet of school buildings
 - Public parks, where any portion of the park is within 1000 feet of a school building
- School buses

The proposed ordinance will also increase penalties for violent crimes that put our students at greatest risk. If a person is convicted of illegal possession of a gun, ammunition or other dangerous weapon, the offender would be subject to the following penalties:

- 1st offense: Fine Range from \$1000-\$5000 and mandatory minimum of 30 days in jail, with a possible sentence of six months.

- 2nd offense: Fine Range from \$5000-\$15000 and mandatory minimum 90 days in jail, with a possible sentence of six months.
- 3rd+ offense: Fine Range from \$10000-\$20000 and mandatory 6 month jail sentence

"This ordinance is a key step in ensuring our children's safety," said Ald. Maldonado. "Our residents, parents, faith leaders, and the students themselves have a role to play in a positive education. I am pleased that we have taken a step towards greater safety and a better education for our students."

"Children are more likely to be victims of violence during the hours just after school ends. We have to use every tool at our disposal to help create a violence free environment for them. This ordinance is another deterrent to picking up a gun to resolve an issue," said Ald. Thomas, Chairman of the Committee on Education.

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