



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR EMANUEL AND ALDERMAN DOWELL INTRODUCE PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE  
ORDINANCE TO PROTECT STUDENTS USING PUBLIC TRANSIT FROM GUN VIOLENCE**

*Ordinance Creates Safety Zones and Increases Penalties Along CTA Routes, Near Stations and Stops*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Alderman Pat Dowell (3rd Ward) today introduced an ordinance to City Council that creates new Public Transportation Safety Zones and increases penalties for serious weapon and gun-related offenses near bus stops, bus shelters and El stations and on buses and trains. The ordinance follows the same guidelines as the recently passed school safety zone ordinance and is designed to protect students and other passengers which ride Chicago Transit Authority buses and trains.

"We recently strengthened the law to create school safety zones and increase protections for students who walk to school, and we are now proposing to the strengthen the law to protect riders of buses and trains, especially the many students who rely on the CTA as a key mode of transportation," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said.

"We are sending the message that we will not tolerate any violence around our students," Ald. Dowell said. "Regardless of how they get to school or other activities, students should feel safe."

The proposed ordinance establishes "public transportation safety zones" on any bus, train or other form of transportation operated by a transportation authority that is funded, in whole or in part, with public funds and in, or within 100 feet of, any building of a public transportation authority or within 100 feet of any bus shelter or sign designating the location of a bus stop.

If a person is convicted of possession of an illegal gun or other dangerous weapon, the offender would be subject to the following enhanced penalties:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tier Crimes:** Assault weapons and high capacity magazines

- ❖ First offense: 120 days to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$1,000-\$5,000
- ❖ Second offense: 150 day to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$5,000-\$15,000
- ❖ Third offense or more: Mandatory 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$10,000-\$20,000

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Crimes:** Possession of silencer/laser sight accessory for a firearm

- ❖ First offense: 30 days to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$1,000-\$5,000
- ❖ Second offense: 90 days to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$5,000-\$15,000
- ❖ Third offense: Mandatory 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$10,000-\$20,000

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tier Crimes:** Dangerous weapons other than firearm

- ❖ First offense: 30 days to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$500-\$1,000
- ❖ Second offense: 90 days to 6 months jail time, with a fine range of \$1,000-\$2,000
- ❖ Third offense: Mandatory 6 month jail time, with a fine range of \$2,000-\$5,000

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