

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN,  
OKLAHOMA, EXPRESSING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE DECISION OF  
THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO NOT  
PATROL THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS IN CLEVELAND COUNTY,  
OKLAHOMA.

- § 1. WHEREAS, on July 3, 2025, the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (“DPS”) issued a press release announcing its decision to “reallocate its resources to areas that have the greatest need for a Patrol presence”; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature has provided that the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division shall have primary law enforcement authority respecting traffic-related offenses upon the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways but has not authorized DPS to transfer primary law enforcement authority respecting traffic-related offenses upon National Systems of Interstate and Defense Highways to local police departments, *see* 47 O.S. §2-117(D)(2); and
- § 3. WHEREAS, DPS further stated that “[t]he responsibility of securing state highways within the city limits of Oklahoma City, Edmond, Moore, Norman, Midwest City, Del City and Tulsa will fall under the jurisdiction of their local police departments as of November 1st”; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, this change includes the portion of Interstate 35 within the Norman city limits, extending from north of Indian Hills Road to the Canadian River Bridge; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, this determination was made and publicly announced without prior notification to, or consultation with, officials from the City of Norman; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the Norman Police Department does not currently possess the staffing levels or specialized equipment necessary to assume responsibility for patrolling the interstate highway system within the city limits; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, pursuant to state law, the City of Norman’s Fiscal Year 2026 budget (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) was required to be finalized prior to the start of the fiscal year; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, at the time of budget adoption, the City was not informed of DPS’s decision, and therefore no funding allocation was included to support such an undertaking; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, the Norman Police Department already provides coverage for State Highway 9 and State Highway 77, and shifting the responsibility for Interstate 35 from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol to the City would require a substantial redirection of limited resources, reducing our capacity to safeguard the residents of Norman; and



§ 10. WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, under DPS, has historically and appropriately borne responsibility for interstate highway patrol, and such duties should remain within their jurisdiction; and

§ 11. WHEREAS, accepting primary law enforcement authority respecting traffic-related offenses upon the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways without Legislative action puts local law enforcement officers at risk for civil liability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

**Section 1.** The City of Norman hereby formally opposes the decision of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety to cease patrolling interstate highways within the city limits of Norman and to transfer that responsibility to the Norman Police Department, effective November 1, 2025.

**Section 2.** The City of Norman urges the Department of Public Safety to reconsider this decision and to continue providing interstate patrol coverage within Cleveland County.

**Section 3.** That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to:

- Tim Tipton, Commissioner, Oklahoma Department of Public Safety
- Joe Williams, Chief, Oklahoma Highway Patrol
- Oklahoma State Senator Lisa Standridge
- Oklahoma State Senator Mary Boren
- Oklahoma State Representative Jared Deck
- Oklahoma State Representative Jacob Rosecrants
- Oklahoma State Representative Annie Menz
- Oklahoma State Representative Danny Sterling
- Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt
- Kyle Hilbert, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
- Lonnie Paxton, President Pro Tempore, Oklahoma State Senate

**Section 4.** That this Resolution be publicly disseminated to inform the citizens of Norman and other affected municipalities of the City's position on this matter.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025.

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Mayor (Stephen T. Holman)

ATTEST:

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City Clerk