



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: February 3, 2021

Subject: Median Safety Ordinance

Mayor Nelson requested the City Council discuss the adoption of an ordinance to prohibit the extended occupation of medians. The Blaine City Council is working on a similar ordinance to implement in their city.

There has been an increase in the number of pedestrians occupying the medians of our busiest roadways for significant periods of time. This creates a dangerous situation for both the pedestrian and the driver.

The proposed language is a limited response. It applies to 7 signalized intersections along the University Avenue, Highway 65 and County Road 10 corridors. The ordinance prohibits an individual from staying in the median through two consecutive opportunities to cross the roadway. The ordinance also prohibits the operator of a motor vehicle to from responding to a person violating the median safety ordinance.

There are exceptions for law enforcement/rescue activities, emergency repair of a vehicle, public works staff repairing infrastructure or those gathering if the street has been closed due to authorization from the City. The penalty for the first violation is a petty misdemeanor and for the second and subsequent violations within a twelve-month period is a misdemeanor.

Public safety staff will take steps to educate pedestrians as to this ordinance before enforcement action begins.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.