

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HALLSVILLE INTENDING TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF CITIZENS BY RESTRICTING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AND THE RESIDENCY OF CERTAIN REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS AND SEXUAL PREDATORS.

131.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The City Council finds that sex offenders who are required to register as a sexual predator under Tex. Code of Criminal Procedure, Ch. 62, present an extreme threat to the health, safety, and welfare of children. It is the intent of this section to serve the city's compelling interest to promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the city by creating areas around locations where children regularly congregate in concentrated numbers wherein certain registered sex offenders and sexual predators are prohibited from loitering or prohibited from establishing temporary or permanent residency.

131.02 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

CHILD. Any person under the age of 17.

CHILD CARE FACILITY. A family day care home which provides regular care to no more than four children under 17 years of age, excluding children related to the caretaker, and provides care after school hours for not more than six additional elementary school children, but the total number of children, including those related to the caretaker, shall not exceed 12 at any given time.

CHILD CARE INSTITUTION. A commercial day care center, which provides regular care to any number of adults or children for less than 24 hours a day.

CHILD SAFETY ZONE. Means public parks, private and public schools, public library, amusement arcades, video arcades, indoor and outdoor amusement centers, amusement parks, public or commercial and semi-private swimming pools, child care facility, child care institution, public or private youth soccer or baseball field, crisis center or shelter, skate park or rink, public or private youth center, movie theater, bowling alley,

scouting facilities, Offices for Child Protective Services, or any place children may gather.

DATABASE. The Texas Department of Public Safety's Sex Offender Database or the Sex Offender Registration files maintained by the Sex Offender Registration Officer of the Hallsville Police Department.

LOITER. Means standing or sitting idly, whether the person is in a vehicle or remaining in or around an area.

PARK or PLAYGROUND. One of the following:

(1) Any land, including improvements to the land that is administered, operated, or managed by the city for the use of the general public as a recreational area; or

(2) City recreational areas include, but are not limited to, conservation area, jogging trail, hiking trail, bicycle trail, recreational center, park, waterpark, swimming pool, soccer field or baseball field.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE. A place where the person abides, lodges, or resides for 7 or more consecutive days.

PLACES WHERE CHILDREN REGULARLY CONGREGATE. Same as CHILD SAFETY ZONE.

PUBLIC WAY. Any place to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access and includes, but is not limited to, streets, shopping centers, parking lots, transportation facilities, restaurants, shops, and similar areas that are open to the use of the public.

SCHOOL. A private or public pre-school, private or public elementary school, or private or public secondary school.

SEX OFFENDER. An individual who has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for a sexual offense involving a person under 17 years of age for which the individual is required to register as a sex offender under Tex. Code of Criminal Procedure, Ch. 62.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE. A place where a person abides, lodges, or resides for a period of 7 or more days in the aggregate, during any calendar year and which is not the person's permanent address, or a place where the person routinely abides, lodges, or

resides for a period of four or more consecutive or non-consecutive days in any month and which is not the person's permanent residence.

131.03 SEX OFFENDER PROHIBITION

(A) It is an offense for a sex offender to establish a permanent residence or temporary residence within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school, child care facility, child care institution, park or playground, or other places where children regularly congregate.

(B) It is an offense for a sex offender to knowingly enter a Child Safety Zone.

(C) It is an offense for a sex offender to knowingly loiter on a public way within 500 feet of a Child Safety Zone.

(D) A sex offender shall not, on each October 30th and 31st (or any other date set by the city for trick-or-treaters), between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., leave an exterior porch light on or otherwise invite trick-or-treaters to solicit the premises.

131.04 PROPERTY OWNERS PROHIBITED FROM RENTING REAL PROPERTY TO REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

It is unlawful to let or rent any place, structure or part thereof, manufactured home, trailer, or any other conveyance, with the knowledge that it will be used as a permanent residence or temporary residence by any person prohibited from establishing such permanent residence or temporary residence pursuant to the terms of this chapter, in such place, structure, or part thereof, manufactured home, trailer, or other conveyance is located within 1,000 feet, as defined in (D), from a Child Safety Zone.

131.05 EVIDENTIARY MATTERS

(A) If a sex offender that is prohibited from being in a Child Safety Zone is found in a Child Safety Zone by a police officer, the sex offender is subject to punishment in accordance with this chapter.

(B) It shall be prima facie evidence that this section applies to such a person if that person's record appears in/on the database and the database indicates that the victim was less than 17 years of age.

(C) The distance of 500 feet from a Child Safety Zone shall be measured on a straight line from the closest boundary of the Child Safety Zone.

(D) The distance of 1,000 feet from a place where children congregate shall be measured on a straight line from the closest boundary line of the sex offender's residence to the closest boundary line of the school, child care facility, child care institution, park or playground, or other places where children regularly congregate.

(E) In the case of multiple residences on one property, measuring from the nearest property line of the residences to the nearest property line of the school, child care facility, child care institution, park or playground, or other places where children regularly congregate.

(F) In cases of a dispute over measured distances, it shall be incumbent upon the person(s) challenging the measurement to prove otherwise.

(G) A map depicting the prohibited areas shall be created by the city and maintained by the Police Department. The city shall review the map annually for changes. Said map will be available to the public at the Hallsville Police Department or available on the city website or the City Police Department website.

(H) Culpable mental state not required. Neither allegation nor evidence of a culpable mental state is required for the proof of an offense defined by this chapter.

131.06 EXCEPTIONS

(A) The person required to register in/on the database established the permanent residence or temporary residence and residency prior to the adoption of this chapter has been consistently maintained and the person has complied with all the sex offender registration laws of the State of Texas, prior to the date of the adoption of this chapter.

(B) The place where children regularly congregate, as specified herein, within 1,000 feet of the permanent or temporary residence of the person required to register on/in the database was opened after the person established the permanent or temporary residence and complied with all sex offender registration laws of the State of Texas.

(C) The information on/in the database is incorrect, and, if corrected, this section would not apply to the person who was erroneously listed on/in the database.

(D) The person required to register on/in the database was a minor when he or she committed the offense requiring such registration and was not convicted as an adult.

(E) The person required to register is required to serve a sentence at a jail, prison, juvenile facility, or other correctional institution located within 1,000 feet of the real property comprising a school, child care facility, child care institution, park or playground, or other places where children regularly congregate.

(F) The person required to register is under 18 years of age or a ward under a guardianship who resides with a parent or guardian.

(G) The person required to register has been exempted by a court order from registration as a sex offender under Tex. Code of Criminal Procedure, Ch. 62.

(H) The person required to register has had the offense for which the sex offender registration was required reversed on appeal or pardoned.

(I) The person's duty to register on/in the database has expired.

(J) Nothing in this provision shall require any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any real estate or home acquired or owned prior to the conviction of the person as a sex offender.

(K) A registered sexual offender can apply for an exemption from a provision of this chapter by making a request to the Chief of Police. The Exemption request must be in writing, citing the specific code section for the exemption; state why an exemption should be granted; and must be signed by the person making the request. A review and decision shall be conducted within 30 workdays, excluding weekends and city holidays. The decision of the Chief of Police, based solely on the exemption request without further hearing, shall be final. A copy of the decision shall be kept within the Sexual Offender Registry Office.

131.09 PENALTY.

Any person, firm, corporation, agent, or employee thereof who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined an amount not to exceed \$2,000 as allowed by law. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such.

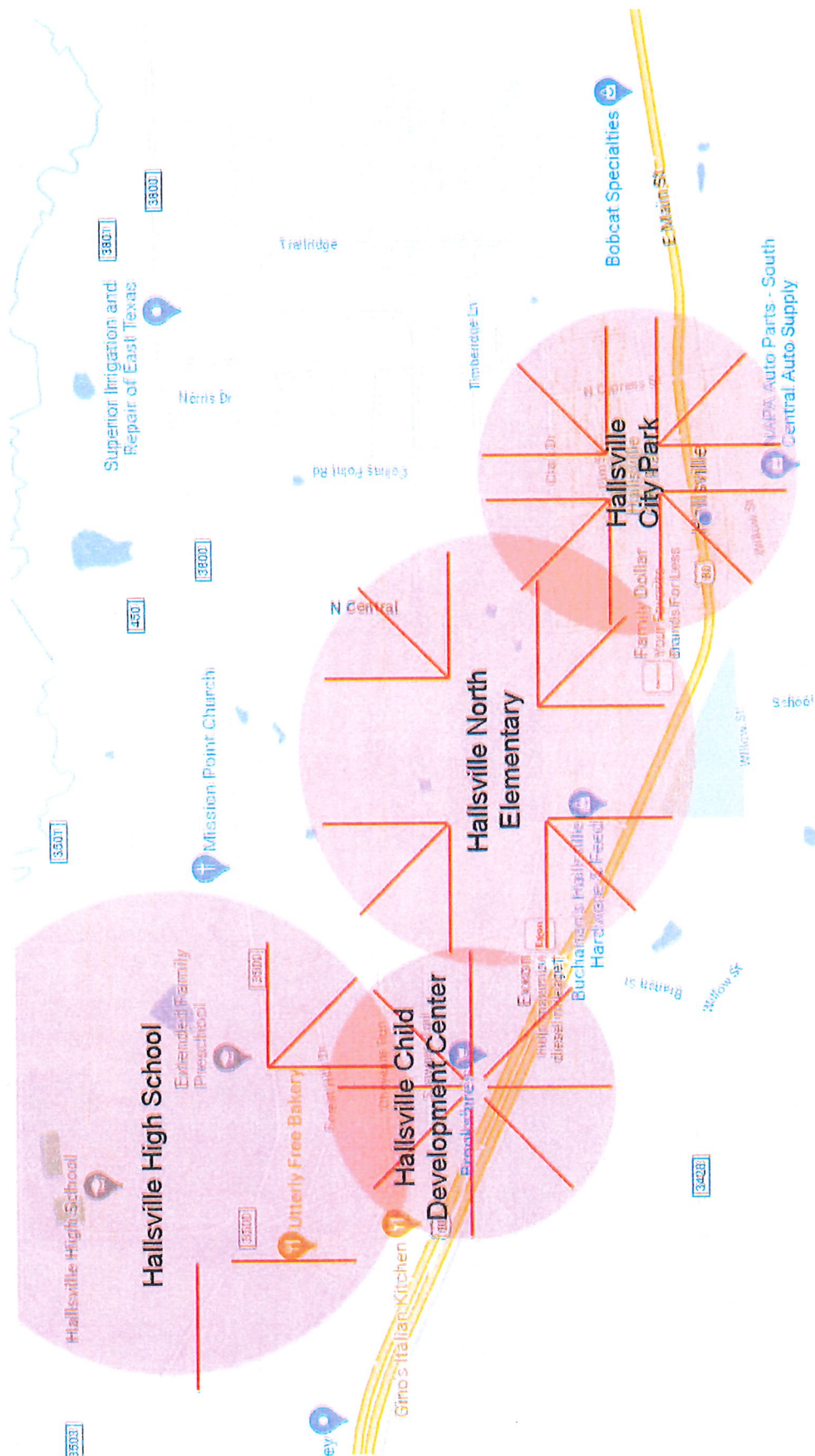
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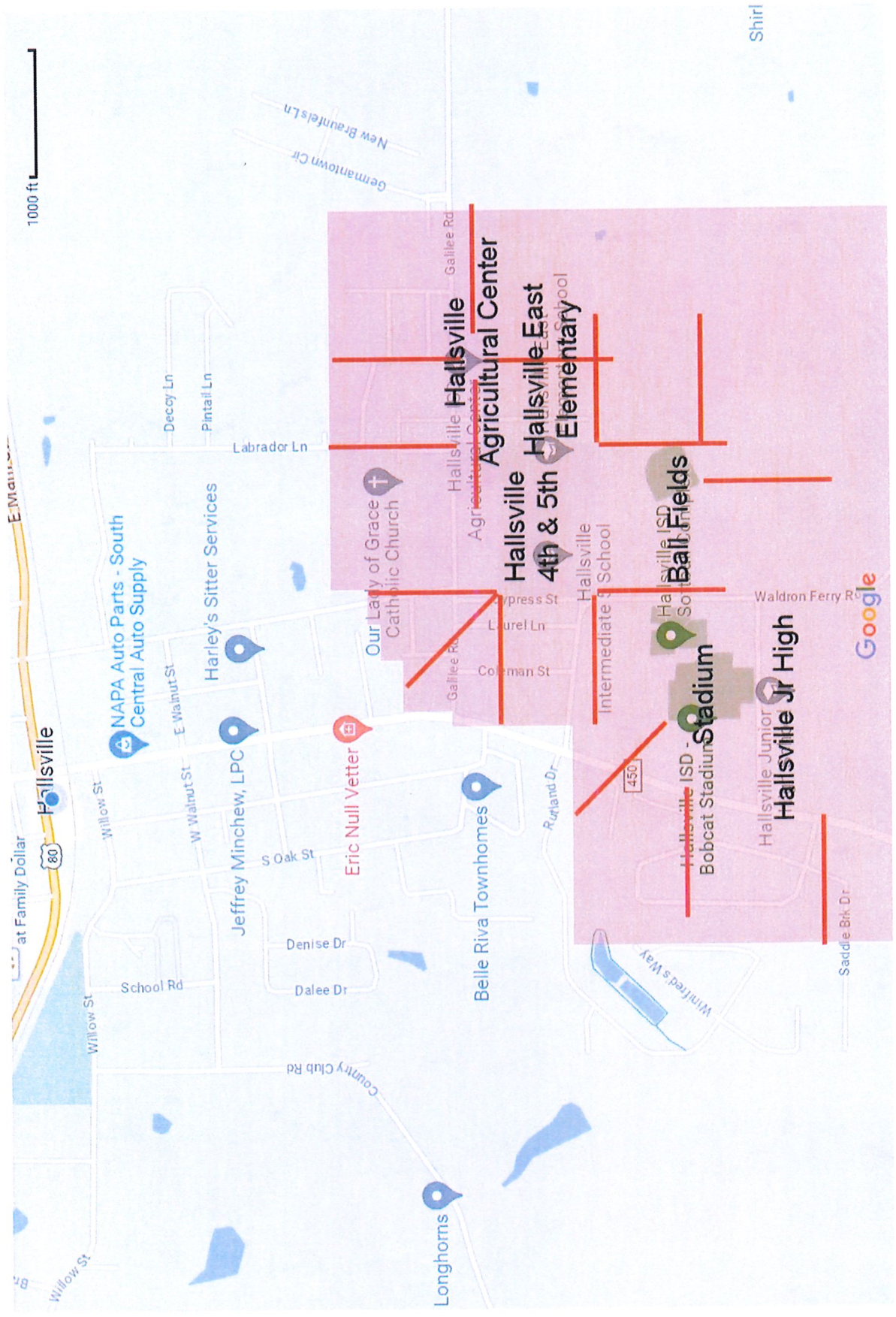
The provisions of this ordinance are effective as of the date of adoption of this ordinance, or upon the date that the publication requirements are met, whichever is later.

PASSED AND APPROVED by an affirmative vote of the members of the City Council on the 20 day of June, 2023.


Jesse Casey, Mayor


Laura Welch, City Secretary





at Family Dollar

Willow St

Willow St

School Rd

W Walnut St

E Walnut St

Denise Dr

Dalee Dr

S Oak St

Jeffrey Minchew, LPC

Harley's Sitter Services

NAPA Auto Parts - South Central Auto Supply

Labrador Ln

Decoy Ln

Pintail Ln

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

Eric Null Vetter

Belle Riva Townhomes

Longhorns

Country Club Rd

Rutland Dr

Galilee Rd

Hallsville Agricultural Center

Hallsville 4th & 5th Elementary

Hallsville Intermediate School

Hallsville ISD - Bobcat Stadium

Hallsville ISD - Ball Fields

Hallsville Junior High

Hallsville Jr High

Waldron Ferry Rd

Saddle Bk Dr

Shirl

Winfred's Way

450

1000 ft

Google