



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Date: January 15, 2026
Subject: Update to City Ordinance 36-128
Crossing or Stopping in a Roadway

City Ordinance Change Hopes to Enhance Traffic Safety

The Phoenix Police Department is advising the public and media of an update to City Ordinance 36-128 which relates to crossing or stopping in a roadway.

Effective January 16, 2026, the ordinance allows officers to issue a civil citation on first contact when violations are observed. Officers retain full discretion and may continue to provide warnings, education, or other appropriate enforcement based on the circumstances of each encounter.

This ordinance addresses safety concerns involving roadways and medians. Raised and painted medians are not designed for pedestrian use and can pose significant safety risks to both pedestrians and motorists, particularly in areas with high traffic volume or speed. The intent of this change is to reduce the risk of injury or crashes and to promote safer use of public roadways.

The Phoenix Police Department's focus remains on education, voluntary compliance, and safety-first enforcement. This update is part of the City's ongoing efforts to enhance roadway safety for everyone who lives in, works in, or travels through Phoenix.

Members of the public with questions about this ordinance are encouraged to review the City Code.

The Phoenix Police Department will be making Lieutenant Seth Jahnke available for sound on this change. Interviews will be held between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Phoenix Police Headquarters. If you would like to be part of an interview, please contact Sergeant Rob Scherer at Robert.scherer@phoenix.gov.

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