

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Police, Administrative Codes - Protecting Access to Reproductive Health Facilities]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to extend the zone in which shouting and using amplified sound is prohibited outside a reproductive health care facility from 50 feet from the property line to 100 feet from the facility entrance or driveway, extend the zone in which following or harassing a person is prohibited from 25 feet from the facility entrance to 100 feet from the facility entrance, and specify that approaching within eight feet of a person inside the 100-foot perimeter of the facility entrance while impersonating a facility worker with the effect of intimidating the person is unlawful harassment; and amending the Administrative Code to direct that Police Department officers be trained annually on enforcement of local and state laws protecting access to reproductive health care facilities, and that the Police Department meet with representatives of a reproductive health care facility every two years, on request, to develop a plan to prevent and respond to incidents that interfere with access to the facility, the facility's operations, and/or the lawful exercise of First Amendment rights by the public.

Existing Law

Existing law prohibits shouting or using amplified sound within 50 feet of the property line of a property housing a reproductive health care facility and following or harassing a person within 25 feet of the entrance to a reproductive health care facility. Existing law defines prohibited harassment as engaging "in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that alarms, seriously distresses, torments, or terrorizes the person," and lists specific categories of conduct that is included in that definition.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would extend the zone in which shouting and using amplified sound is prohibited from 50 feet of the property line of a property housing a reproductive health care facility to 100 feet from the facility entrance or driveway. It would extend the zone in which following or harassing a person is prohibited from 25 feet from the facility entrance to 100 feet from the facility entrance. It would amend the definition of prohibited harassment to specify that prohibited harassment includes impersonating a facility worker or volunteer, including by wearing clothing intended to resemble a facility worker or volunteer, with the effect of intimidating a person. The ordinance would require that the Police Department train its officers annually on Article 43 enforcement, and that the Police Department meet with reproductive health care facilities at least once every two years at a facility's request, to develop a plan to prevent and respond to incidents that interfere with access to the facility, the facility's operations, and/or the lawful exercise of First Amendment rights by the public.

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