

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – NIGHTTIME CURFEW

Why did the City issue a nighttime curfew? The violence, chaos, and destruction that took place on Saturday night and Sunday morning was unacceptable. Our number one priority is to ensure that all people feel safe and are safe at all times throughout our community. A nighttime curfew is necessary for public safety in order to prevent personal injury, property damage, and maintain order.

Does the curfew apply throughout the entire City of Grand Rapids? Yes. All parts of the City are important and valued, and the safety of the whole City should be protected to the same degree by the curfew.

When does the curfew apply? The curfew applies from 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 31th to 5:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1st and from 7:00pm on Monday June 1st to 5:00am on Tuesday June 2nd.

Will there be additional curfews on other days? Depending on how events unfold, there may be additional curfews announced. The safety of our community is the highest priority for the City.

How will the curfew be enforced? The City asks all community members to voluntarily adhere to the curfew to help protect the safety of our community. The curfew is a tool to address the kind of behavior that caused fires and property damage and avert personal injury in the City.

I'm scheduled to work during the curfew. Can I still travel to go to work? Can my employees still report to work during the curfew? Yes, people are allowed to travel to and from work during the curfew.

Are businesses required to close during the curfew? The curfew does not require businesses to close, but it does mean that the public should not be travelling to and from businesses like restaurants or retailers during the curfew, so some business may choose to close during these hours. We encourage businesses to evaluate their operations. Those businesses that choose to stay open need to find ways to safely provide goods and services, including delivery.

I use public transportation, or a ride-hailing app, for transportation. Am I allowed to use those during the curfew? Yes, you can use public transportation like the Rapid, or a ride-hailing app like Lyft or Uber, to travel for any purpose allowed under the curfew. These methods of transportation will continue to operate unless circumstances require them to be closed to protect public health and safety.

What if I need to go to the hospital during the curfew? People are allowed to seek emergency medical care during the curfew.

My situation at home is not safe, and I may need to leave. Can I leave during the curfew to avoid an unsafe living situation? Yes, the curfew allows people to leave unsafe circumstances, which would include domestic violence, fire, criminal conduct, or any other unsafe circumstance.

I am experiencing homelessness and don't have a place to go inside. How does the curfew apply to me? The curfew does not apply to those experiencing homelessness since they do not have another place to go. The City asks those experiencing homelessness to help protect the safety of the community by voluntarily restricting their travel in public places during the curfew. There are many resources available for overnight shelter in the City including Mel Trotter, Degage, Guiding Light and others. Individuals are encouraged to contact 211 for further information on available resources.

Are there other exemptions from the curfew? The curfew also does not apply to law enforcement, fire fighters, medical personnel, or members of the news media.

How is the City's curfew different from the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order? The City's curfew is aimed at protecting public safety and reducing property damage and personal injury during a civil disturbance, while the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order is aimed at reducing the spread of the coronavirus. However, under both the curfew and Stay Home order, residents should be remaining at home whenever possible, and the curfew only applies during the limited hours from 7:00pm to 5:00am.

What are the penalties for violating the curfew? Violations of the curfew is subject to arrest and could face misdemeanor penalties of up to 90 days in jail, \$500 fine, or both.