



FROM THE DESK OF
MAYOR MONROE NICHOLS

Councilors,

I am returning to you Ordinance 25646, which I have signed and approved because of its overarching public safety goals for pedestrians and motorists. Keeping people a safe distance from traffic is an important step in protecting lives on our streets.

That said, I strongly recommend you consider a future amendment to address feedback regarding Section 1105 as it applies to sidewalks. I also urge you to revisit the fine structure with an eye toward lowering the penalty to ensure it is fair, not unduly punitive, and effective in fostering a safer city.

Given the recent misguided, politically motivated, and inhumane actions of Governor John Kevin Stitt, our unhoused population has been targeted unlike at any time before. It is critical that this ordinance does not create new barriers for people seeking housing and that it allows us to compassionately serve everyone. To that end, we will launch a citywide education campaign so residents—particularly those experiencing homelessness—fully understand the new requirements.

As it relates specifically to the feedback received on sidewalks, for the first 90 days, enforcement will focus on outreach and warnings rather than citations, giving people time and information to comply. We are also moving forward with the creation of a homelessness docket in municipal court, providing an avenue for individuals to reduce or resolve justice involvement more quickly and move toward stable housing. Our efforts to end homelessness will continue to center on the full implementation of Safe Move Tulsa. We remain on track to house 300 individuals over the next 12 months and to decommission encampments in a coordinated, service-centered manner. These efforts are part of our shared vision to achieve zero functional homelessness by 2030—a future in which homelessness in Tulsa is rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

We will continue to lead with compassion in every phase of our work, and the implementation of Ordinance 25646 will be no different.

I look forward to working with each of you and with our City Attorney to craft amendments that preserve public safety while advancing our shared commitment to housing every Tulsan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MN' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Monroe Nichols IV
Mayor | City of Tulsa