

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

City Attorney's Office – New Legislative Proposals

Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

October 29, 2015

Summary of Legislative Proposals

- Party Bus Regulation
- Driver Diversion Program



Party Bus Regulation



Party Bus Regulation



Party Bus Regulation

Party Buss Action 🚌🚗😏🍷

When : 7/15/15 😏

Times : 8-1am

Price : 10

We will supply everything for everybody 🍷🍷🍷 But
You can still bring stuff 🍷😏💕 1\$ for shots , no drama
nor weapons on the bus no gang banging 🚫 if any of
that is going on you will get the boot 🚫👤 TURN UP
EVERYBODY No Opps No Cops 🍷😏🚗 inbox one of
us for stops



Party Bus Regulation

- The Issue:
 - “Party buses” have been identified through the *Mapping the Market for Sex with Trafficked Minor Girls in Minneapolis* study conducted by the Urban Research and Outreach Center of the University of Minnesota as associated with minor sex trafficking.
 - The Minneapolis Police Department has also identified and responded to a number of criminal incidents directly associated with party buses; often times involving juveniles, violence, weapons and minor consumption of alcohol and drug use.

Party Bus Regulation

- The Regulatory Shortfall:
 - There is no definition of “party bus” under existing law.
 - “Party buses” presently fall under the regulatory authority of MN-DOT as a *motor carrier of passengers* along with other types of charter buses.
 - The state regulation focuses almost exclusively on general vehicular condition and insurance and does not provide for the regulation of passenger behaviors or set expectations of party bus operators.

Party Bus Regulation

- The Legislative Proposal:
 - Because party buses are regulated by the state, and because of their mobility and multi-jurisdictional reach, the proposal would strengthen the regulatory authority of MN-DOT.
 - Prohibit motor carriers of passengers from permitting passenger activity involving behaviors such as adult entertainment (as defined by state statute) or minor consumption to occur on board.

Party Bus Regulation

- The Legislative Proposal
 - Utilize existing MN-DOT enforcement framework involving sanctions to the operators inclusive of fines and potential suspension, nonrenewal or revocation of the operator's required permits or registration certificates.
 - MPD and Business Licensing would continue to work cooperative enforcement details with and provide investigatory assistance to MN-DOT and other partners.

Driver Diversion Program (DDP)

- The Issue:

- There is a need to figure out a more effective system for dealing with driving violations for low income and poor individuals.
- Over 20% of MPD arrests and 13% of MCAO caseload are for person's driving without a valid driver's license or insurance.
- Persons without a valid license often end up in a vicious cycle of unpaid fines and surcharges, making it difficult to reinstate their driving privileges or get insurance.

Driver Diversion Program (DDP)

- The Issue:
 - In 2008, the legislature approved a law change to provide for a pilot diversion program called the Driver Diversion Program (DDP).
 - DDP allows for immediate reinstatement of a person's driving privileges after they complete a class and get on a payment plan to pay off all existing fines and fees affecting their license.
 - This pilot program sunsets in June 2017. This results in participants having approximately 18 months to pay off their fines and fees. This is not enough time for some participants, many of whom owe several thousand dollars.

Driver Diversion Program (DDP)

- The Issue:
 - Minneapolis began participating in the DDP in 2010.
 - Between 2010 and April 2015, Minneapolis has referred 2,512 participants to the program.
 - 366 are in good standing (15%) – the overall program percentage in good standing is 21%
 - 566 have graduated (23%) – the overall program percentage in good standing is 32%
 - 1,580 have failed or been removed (62%) – the overall program percentage removed or failed is 47%
 - 590 Minneapolis participants (38%) were removed because they failed to keep up with their payments

Driver Diversion Program (DDP)

- The Legislative Proposal:
 - The pilot program needs to be expanded to a permanent statewide program to better serve the needs of persons with large fines and fees due.
 - Eligibility criteria needs to be reviewed and possibly expanded to allow more people in need of this program to be found eligible to participate.
 - The program needs to be made permanent so that there is no longer a time limit (currently 18 months) to pay off fines and fees.