Weatherford City Council

AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date:	April 14, 2026	**Staff Contact:**	Jason Hayes, Chief of Police
Item Number:	2026-777-AR	**Phone:**	817-598-4315

SUBJECT: Consider adoption of Ordinance O2026-10 amending Section 6-15-2 "Offenses" of Chapter 15, "Sex Offenders," of Title VI, "Police Regulations," of the Official City Code of the City of Weatherford.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Weatherford Police Department requests City Council consideration of an ordinance amendment to Section 6-15-2 “Offenses” of Chapter 15 “Sex Offenders,” Title VI “Police Regulations,” of the Official City Code of the City of Weatherford to establish a 2,000-foot residency restriction for certain registered sex offenders from designated child safety zones within the city as opposed to the current 1000-foot restriction. Child safety zones include locations where children regularly gather, such as schools, parks, playgrounds, daycare centers, youth athletic facilities, and similar areas.

Texas law allows municipalities to adopt local residency restrictions as an additional safeguard for children and families. Many cities historically adopted 1,000-foot buffers around child safety zones. Over time, however, a number of communities have expanded those restrictions to 2,000 feet in order to create greater separation between individuals with qualifying offenses and the locations most frequently used by children. The purpose of increasing the distance is to provide a larger protective buffer around areas where children live, learn, and recreate.

A 2,000-foot restriction more effectively covers the surrounding neighborhoods and community spaces where children spend time outside of the immediate school or park property. In many cities, schools and parks are located within residential neighborhoods. A 1,000-foot buffer often leaves much of the surrounding neighborhood outside the restricted area. Expanding the buffer to 2,000 feet increases the level of separation and provides broader coverage of the areas where families and children regularly gather.

As part of evaluating this policy, the staff has reviewed local registry data and conducted a GIS analysis of child safety zones within Weatherford. Currently, there are 60 registered sex offenders residing within the city limits. Of those individuals, 53 have a conviction involving a victim younger than 17 years of age, 28 of the 53 have a conviction involving a child 14 years of age or younger, and 16 of the 53 have a conviction involving a child 10 years of age or younger. In practical terms, this means that approximately ninety percent of the registered offenders residing in Weatherford have a conviction involving a minor victim.

The proposed ordinance would not require any currently compliant registered sex offender to relocate. The restriction would apply only if a registered offender chooses to move to a new residence within the city or if a registered offender seeks to move into Weatherford in the future.

As Weatherford continues to grow and develop new neighborhoods, parks, and youth facilities, periodically evaluating the adequacy of existing safety buffers is an appropriate part of long-term community planning.

Increasing the residency restriction to 2,000 feet is intended to strengthen safeguards around locations where children regularly gather while maintaining a reasonable and enforceable policy framework.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

- O2026-10
- Current Ordinance_Chapter 15. Sex Offenders
- 2026 Weatherford Sex Offender Exclusion Zones Map_Updated