

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 126841

COUNCIL BILL 120599

AN ORDINANCE extending the duration of the block-the-box and transit-only lane camera enforcement programs; amending Ordinance 126183; declaring an emergency; and establishing an immediate effective date; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

WHEREAS, in 2020, the City Council passed Ordinance 126183, authorizing block-the-box and transit-only lane camera enforcement programs through June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5974, Chapter 182, Laws of 2022, extended State authorization for block-the-box and transit-only lane camera enforcement programs from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to extend authorization for block-the-box and transit-only camera enforcement to June 30, 2025 without a lapse in authority; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council finds and declares that:

A. Vehicles that block-the-box within busy intersections interfere with safe passage across intersections by pedestrians and bicyclists, including persons with disabilities.

B. Vehicles that utilize transit-only lanes interfere with the safe operations and movement of transit vehicles and their passengers.

C. It is not safe, practical, or desirable to utilize police officers to enforce block-the-box or transit-only lane prohibitions.

D. The City Council authorized block-the-box and transit-only lane camera enforcement programs until June 30, 2023 (Ordinance 126183), as authorized by Engrossed Substitute House

1 Bill (ESHB) 1793, Chapter 224, Laws of 2020, which included a June 30, 2023 expiration date
2 for State authorization of these programs.

3 E. Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5974, Chapter 182, Laws of 2022, extended
4 State authorization for block-the-box and transit-only lane camera enforcement programs from
5 June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

6 F. This ordinance is necessary to become effective immediately to protect the public
7 peace and safety by allowing for the continued authorization of block-the-box and transit-only
8 lane camera enforcement without a lapse in local authority.

9 Section 2. Section 3 of Ordinance 126183 is amended as follows:

10 Section 3. Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance shall expire on June 30, ~~((2023))~~
11 2025.

12 Section 3. Based on the findings of fact set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance, the
13 Council finds and declares that this ordinance is a public emergency ordinance, which shall take
14 effect immediately and is necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

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1 Section 4. By reason of the findings set out in Section 1, and the emergency that is hereby
2 declared to exist, this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage by a 3/4
3 vote of the City Council and its approval by the Mayor, as provided by Article 4, subsection 1.I
4 of the Charter of the City.

5 Passed by a 3/4 vote of all the members of the City Council the 27th day of
6 June, 2023, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its
7 passage this 27th day of June, 2023.

8 
9 _____
President _____ of the City Council

10 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this 28th day of June, 2023.

11 
12 _____
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

13 Filed by me this 28th day of June, 2023.

14 
15 _____
Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

16 (Seal)