

## NOTICE OF GANG-FREE ZONE

### Goodwater Montessori School

Pursuant to **Texas Penal Code Section 71.028**, a *Gang-Free Zone* has been established on and around the property of **Goodwater Montessori School**, including all *in, on, or within 1,000 feet* of school grounds and related premises.

### What This Means

Under Texas law, the area in, on, or within 1,000 feet of this school property is designated a **Gang-Free Zone** for the purpose of enforcing enhanced criminal penalties for certain offenses.

### Penalties for Organized Criminal Activity Within a Gang-Free Zone

Certain offenses that constitute **Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity** (as defined in **Texas Penal Code Section 71.02**) carry enhanced penalties if committed within a gang-free zone.

#### 1. Organized Criminal Activity (71.02)

A person commits an offense if, with the intent to establish, maintain, or participate in a *criminal street gang or criminal combination*, the person **commits or conspires to commit** qualifying criminal offenses (e.g., murder, robbery, assault, drug distribution, kidnapping, arson, theft, and others listed in Section 71.02).

#### 2. Enhanced Punishment in a Gang-Free Zone (71.028)

If a person age **17 or older** is **convicted** of engaging in organized criminal activity at this location, the punishment for the offense is **increased to the next highest category of offense** than it would be otherwise.

- For example:

- A third-degree felony committed here might be elevated to a **second-degree felony**;
- A second-degree felony might be elevated to a **first-degree felony**;
- Penalty ranges for each felony category generally increase (e.g., more years in prison and higher fines).

#### 3. Exceptions

The enhanced punishment under Section 71.028 does **not apply** if the underlying organized criminal activity offense is already punishable as a **first-degree felony**.

### **Important Legal Notice**

Commitment or conspiracy to commit organized criminal activity within this Gang-Free Zone subjects the actor **to enhanced felony punishment under Texas law**. In addition to increased prison terms, felony convictions carry significant long-term legal, financial, and civil consequences, including probation restrictions and collateral impacts on employment and civil rights.

This School's Gang-Free Zone designation is consistent with Texas law and is intended to support the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the school community.