



Seattle Police Department Policy Manual



15.300 – Stay out of Drug Areas (SODA)

Original Effective Date: 10/14/2008

Revised Effective Date: 07/01/2025

15.300-POL-1 SODA Orders

1. Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) General

SODA (Stay Out of Drug Areas) are court orders that prohibit the subject of the order from frequenting areas known for continuous drug activity or are conditions of community custody.

Seattle Municipal Court will issue written SODA Orders prohibiting certain subjects from entering restricted areas (SODA Zones). The SODA Order will indicate which Soda Zone the subject is restricted from entering.

The SODA Order may be in effect for the duration of the court's jurisdiction, or until trial if the order was issued as a condition of release from custody.

A sworn employee who has probable cause to believe that a person is in violation of a SODA Order may place the person under arrest. A violation of a SODA Order is a gross misdemeanor.

2. Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) – Arraignment/Sentencing

The majority of SODA Orders will be issued on Misdemeanor Narcotics Possession and Public Use offenses. However, if there is strong evidence to support that the crime committed was related to narcotics a SODA Order could be granted at the time of sentencing.

3. Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) – Exceptions

SODA Orders may contain exceptions that permit a subject access to a restricted zone. Exceptions to the SODA Order include travel to and from and/or remaining in the following locations (unless otherwise marked):

- Place of residence
- Place of employment
- School
- Medical services

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- Transiting through a SODA Zone on public transportation as long as the person does not enter or exit the public transportation in the SODA Zone.
- Participating in a scheduled court hearing or attending a scheduled meeting with legal counsel

Prior to making contact, sworn employees must observe the subject for a period of time so they can articulate how the subject is not actively moving to and from a particular location. These observations and any statements made by the subject must be included in the narrative of the report.

4. Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) – Juveniles

Standard procedures for handling juvenile investigations and arrests are outlined in manual section [6.290 – Juvenile Investigations & Arrests](#), these procedures apply to all juvenile investigations and arrests, including SODA violations.

If it is determined (after screening the arrest with a supervisor) that a juvenile suspect should be booked into the King County Juvenile Court Youth Services Center (YSC) for violating a SODA Order, the arresting sworn employee should contact the YSC screener at (206) 263-9595 to ensure the juvenile meets the criteria for detention.

Currently, a SODA Zone violation alone does not meet the criteria for detention. However, the YSC screener will be able to check for other factors that may make the SODA Order violation a detainable offense.

If the YSC screener accepts the juvenile for detention, then sworn employees will book for the charge of “Investigation of SODA Zone violation” and deliver the original with the juvenile to the booking staff at the Youth Service Center.

If the juvenile is not going to be booked, then sworn employees will complete a supplemental report and an officer statement and route them to the Narcotics Section.

15.300-POL-2 Enforcement

1. Order Information

SODA information will be entered by the issuing court and accessible electronically through WACIC. That file will provide the following information:

- Existence of a SODA Order
- Issuing court & case number
- Original SPD report number

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- Applicable Precinct and restricted SODA Zone
- Effective date and expiration date
- The confirmation phone number (SPD Data Center)

2. Verifying SODA Orders

Sworn employees can verify the existence of a specific SODA Order and its terms by requesting that information from Communications.

3. Report Numbers for SODA Arrests

If a SODA Order exists and an arrest is made, sworn employees will write a report referenced in the SODA Order. Sworn employees should obtain the report number from the verifying source (Records Files Unit, Human Trafficking Unit, etc.).

If there are new criminal charges, sworn employees will obtain a new report number. Sworn employees will write a new report and link it to the existing SODA Order report number and list the existing SODA Order report number in the narrative.

4. Reporting a SODA Arrest

Sworn employees will complete the Superform using the existing SODA Order report number and will list the SODA Order Violation [12A.21.050](#) in the offense data section of the Superform.

If the original SODA Order report number is listed on the Superform, it is not necessary to provide a copy of the SODA Order.

Sworn employees will complete a supplemental report using the SODA Order report number.

5. Reporting a SODA Violation When There is a “New” Charge

If an individual is arrested for a crime other than a SODA violation, and then it is determined that this individual is also in violation of an existing SODA Order, sworn employees should refer to the SODA violation and include the SODA Order report number in the offense data section of the Superform.

Sworn employees will include “SODA – Viol” in the offenses block of the report bearing the report number for the offense which caused the arrest.

Sworn employees will link the new report to the SODA Order report number and list the SODA Order report number in the report narrative.

15.300-POL-3 Defined SODA Zones

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Due to high levels of significant drug activity, SODA Zones have been established. Unless specified, SODA Zone borders include both sides of the street, immediately adjoining sidewalks, alleys, and properties. All adjacent parks are included in the established SODA Zone.

SODA Zones may be subject to change at the discretion of the City Council. Sworn employees should be sure to verify all SODA Order violations through Communications and may see the most current SODA Zone location in [SMC 12A.21.050](#).

1. SODA Zone 1 – Downtown

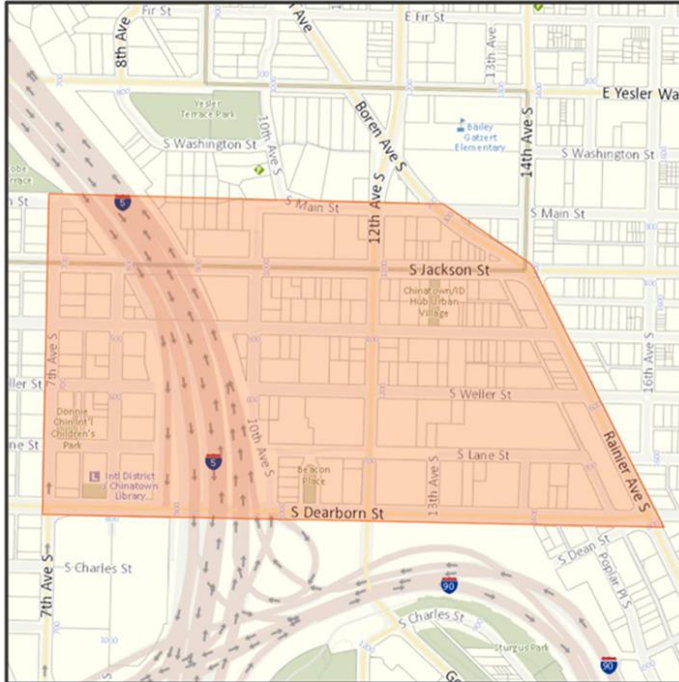
The area of Downtown bordered on the North by Stewart Street, on the South by University Street, on the East by 6th Avenue, and on the West by 1st Avenue.



2. SODA Zone 2 – International District

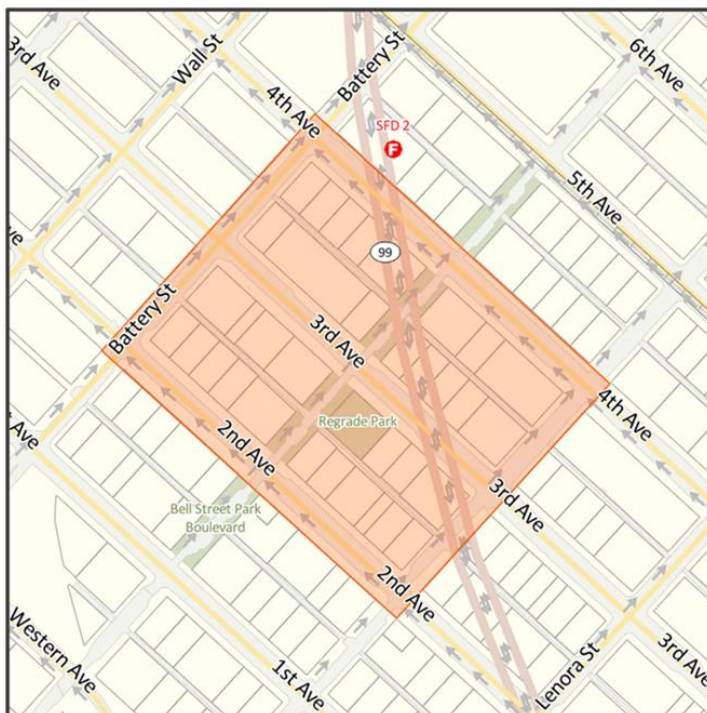
The area of the International District bordered on the north by S. Main Street, on the south by S. Dearborn Street, on the east by Boren Avenue continuing to Rainier Avenue S., and on the West by 7th Avenue South, including all off-ramps and areas underneath Interstate 5 and sidewalks immediately adjacent to Interstate 5.

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3. SODA Zone 3 – Belltown

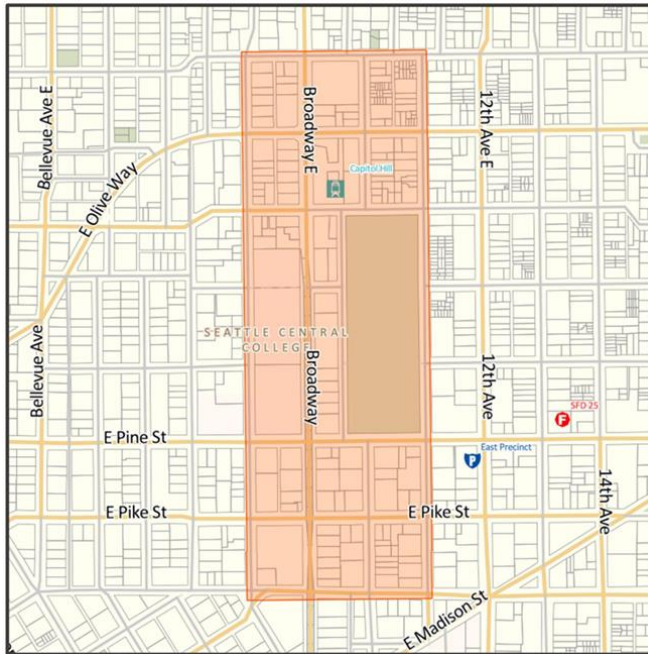
The area of the Belltown District bordered on the north by Battery Street, on the south by Blanchard Street, on the east by 4th Avenue, and on the west by 2nd Avenue.



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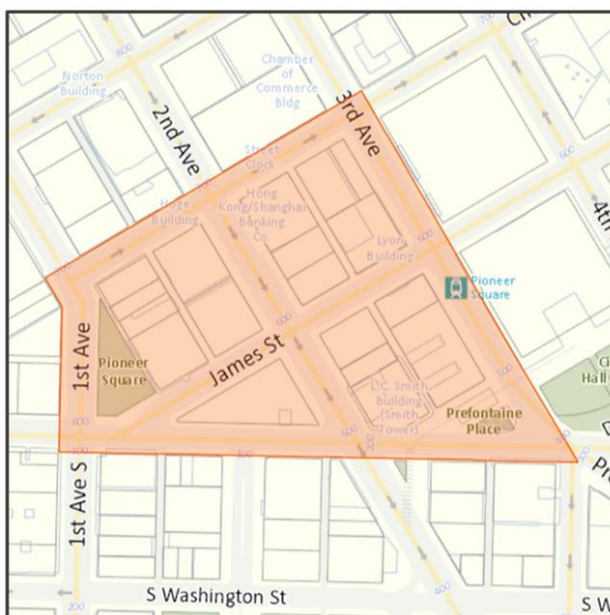
4. SODA Zone 4 – Capitol Hill

The Capitol Hill neighborhood bordered on the north by East Thomas Street, on the south by East Union Street, on the east by 11th Avenue, and on the west by Harvard Avenue.



5. SODA Zone 5 – Pioneer Square

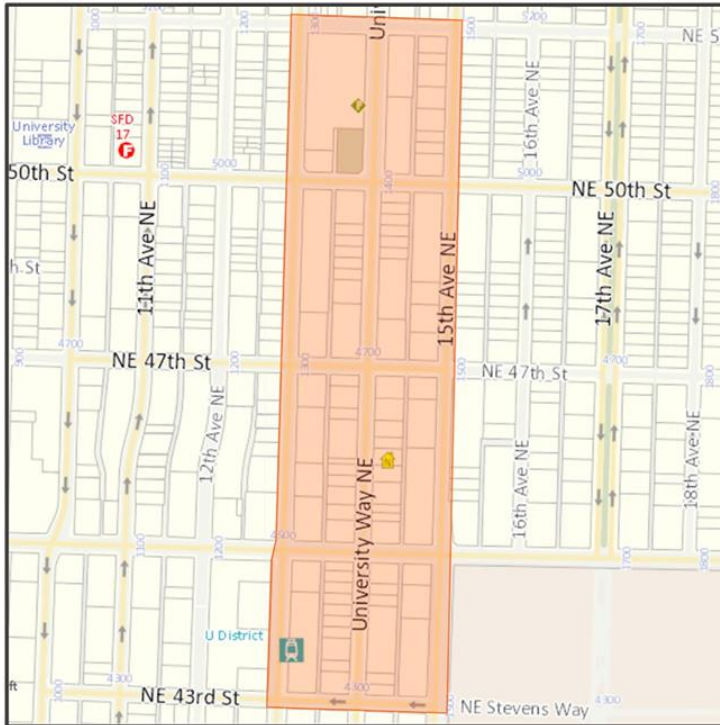
The Pioneer Square area bordered on the north by Cherry Street, on the south by Yesler Way, on the east by 3rd Avenue, and on the west by 1st Avenue.



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6. SODA Zone 6 – University District

The University District bordered on the north by Northeast 52nd Street, on the south by Northeast 43rd Street, on the east by 15th Avenue Northeast, and on the west by Brooklyn Avenue. Northeast.



15.300-PRO-1 SODA-General Process

Sworn Employee

1. **Identifies** the offender through the MDT or radio and determines that a valid SODA Order exists for the zone the offender was observed in.
2. **Confirms** the SODA information with SPD Data and request a faxed copy.
3. **Documents** all contacts with a SODA Order subject on an SPD Supplement Report using the original report number.
4. **Includes** the SODA hit information in the narrative and notes which court issued the SODA Order.
5. **Sends** the supplemental report to a supervisor for approval and **notifies** the supervisor directly.

Supervisor

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1. **Reviews** the supplemental report and, after approval, routes it for transcription as normal.
2. **Sends** an alert email to the Narcotics Section. The email will contain the report number.

Sworn Employee

1. If the suspect is being booked into jail, **completes** a Superform.
2. **Includes** a statement of probable cause (non-VUCSA) that identifies the SODA Zone and the precinct where the offense occurred, as well as the issuing court (SMC or Superior) and details of the violation.
 - For Seattle Municipal Court SODA order violations, the charge will be "Violation of SODA order/SMC [12A.56.020](#)."
 - For King County Superior Court SODA order violations, the charge will be Investigation of Violation of SODA order/KC Superior Court.