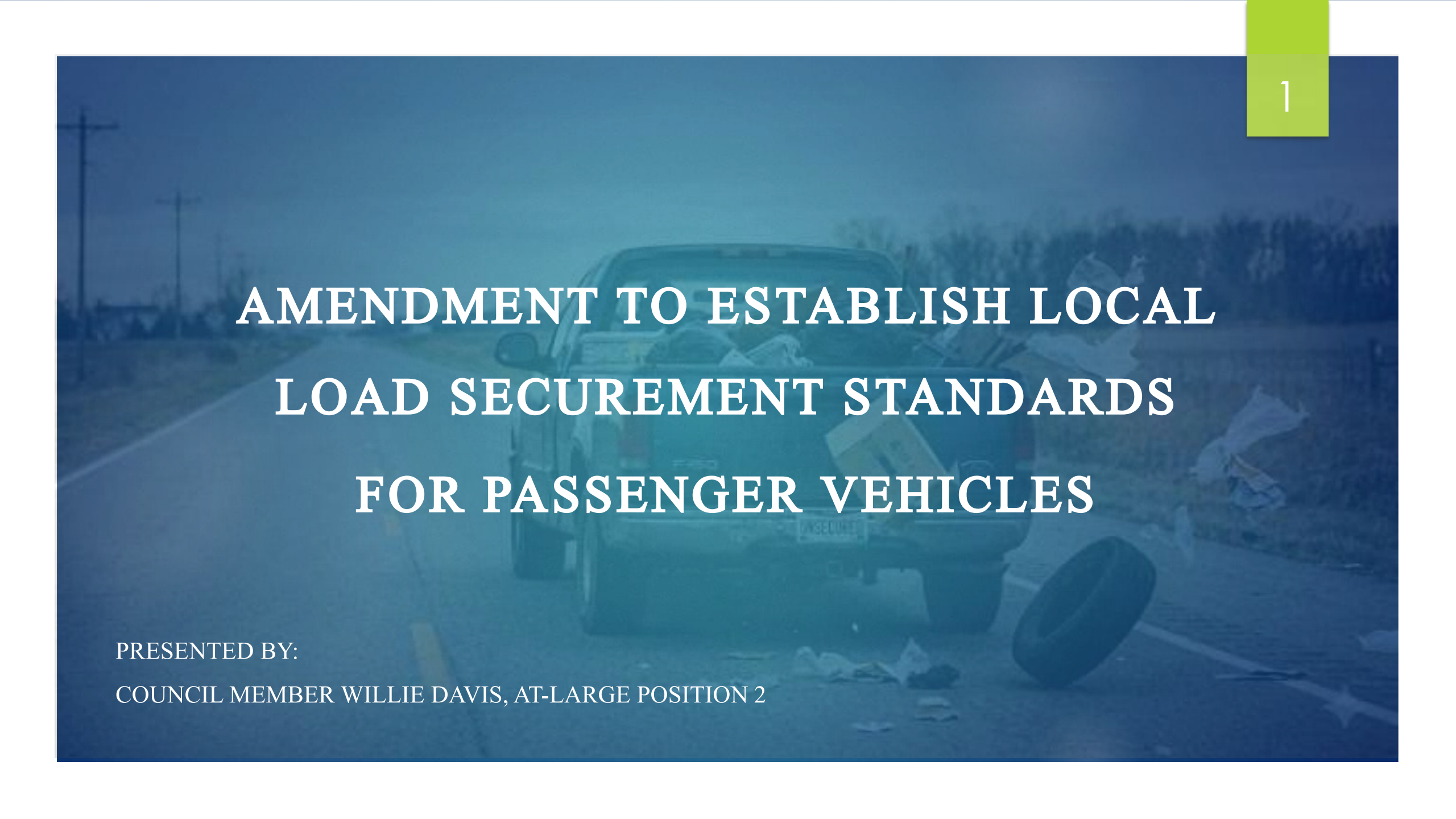


A photograph of a car accident scene, overlaid with a blue semi-transparent filter. The scene shows a car, likely a pickup truck, with debris scattered around it, including a tire lying on the ground. The background shows a road and some trees.

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH LOCAL LOAD SECUREMENT STANDARDS FOR PASSENGER VEHICLES

PRESENTED BY:

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIE DAVIS, AT-LARGE POSITION 2

BACKGROUND

- Nearly every Houstonian has seen or driven behind a vehicle that appeared to have an improperly secured load, or has had to swerve to avoid road debris that fell off of a vehicle.
- There is currently no language in the Texas Transportation Code (Chapter 725) nor the Houston Code of Ordinances (Chapter 45, Article II) that specifies the type of devices that should be utilized to secure a vehicle's load.



BACKGROUND

- This ordinance amendment seeks to establish the types of securement devices and include more specific securement requirements than the existing language in the Texas Transportation Code.



BACKGROUND

- The objective of this amendment is to reduce the frequency of this type of public safety hazard.

2,066

311 requests routed to
HPW related to road
debris in 2023

17K+

Pieces of debris collected
by HCTRA since 2020

1,500

Vehicular crashes in Texas
in 2023 caused by road
debris tracked by AAA

3%

Yearly increase in
road debris since 2020
according to TxDOT

AMENDMENT LANGUAGE

Sec. 45-45. –**Load Securement**

(a) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section will have the meanings set forth in this subsection, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) Load or Cargo means any material, object, equipment, tool, debris, appliance, or goods transported in or on a motor vehicle or attached trailer, regardless of weight, but does not include live animals.
- (2) Securement Device means straps, tiedowns, ropes, nets, bungee cords, ratchet mechanisms, chains, containers, tarps, cargo boxes, or any manufacturer-approved means used to prevent movement of a load.
- (3) Movement means shifting, sliding, tipping, leaking, spilling, blowing, or falling from a motor vehicle in a manner that may create a hazard.

(b) General Load Securement Requirements.

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, carry, or cause to be transported or carried any load or cargo in an unenclosed, open area of a motor vehicle or attached trailer unless such load or cargo is secured by a securement device sufficient to prevent its movement.
- (2) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of an offense and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as provided in Section 1-6 of this Code. Each violation of this article shall constitute and be punishable as a separate offense.

IN THE MEDIA

"Houston city council considers secured load ordinance, making unsecured cargo illegal." *ABC13 Eyewitness News*, reported by Kelvin Henry, ABC13, 09 July 2026.



<http://www.abc13.com/post/houston-city-council-considers-secured-load-ordinance-making-unsecured-cargo-illegal/19477684>

ENFORCEMENT

- In addition to having been reviewed by the Legal Department, this ordinance amendment has been vetted by the Houston Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Division.
- This amendment empowers law enforcement to crack down on offenders operating vehicles with unsecured loads.

Traffic Enforcement

The Traffic Enforcement Division works to protect the safety of the public by enforcing laws to curtail unsafe/illegal driving practices. Specific enforcement aims to detect impaired drivers and coordinate testing of persons arrested for driving while intoxicated. The enforcement of traffic laws with an eye towards accident prevention is the goal of the division. The division's operational units include:

- **DWI Task Force**, which works to detect and apprehend intoxicated drivers;
- **Mobility Response Team**, which responds to and mitigates significant non-freeway congestion due to unexpected events (e.g., signal malfunctions, crashes, roadway hazards, fire, and weather events);



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COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?