In 2011, the Davis City Council added Chapter 41 to the City of Davis Municipal Code authorizing the City Council to designate a Safety Enhancement Zones (SEZ) to enhance penalties for violations of certain Municipal Code provisions committed within a designated zone, during a prescribed period of time, such as Picnic Day.

The SEZ began in the downtown and was expanded to adjacent neighborhoods in subsequent years. For Picnic Day 2017, the SEZ expanded west from State Route 113 to Arlington Blvd and Shasta Dr. and east from the rail-line to Pole Line Rd. The City Council approved this expansion on February 21, 2017.

The SEZ establishes increased fines for certain offenses occurring in the zone to deter unlawful behavior. Enactment of the ordinance does not add or modify existing laws or ordinances. The ordinance simply authorizes increased fines within the SEZ during the specified time period. Signs will be posted at major access points to the Zone, as well as locations within the SEZ, warning of the enhanced fines for specified offenses. Fines are doubled for violations of open container laws, public urination, smoking and drunk in public places during the 36-hr period of 6pm Friday to 6am Sunday.