

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-288

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION PROHIBITING AN INDIVIDUAL FROM WRITING, SENDING OR RECEIVING TEXT MESSAGES WHILE OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS AS STATED HEREIN.

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council reports that using a cell phone while driving quadruples drivers' risk of getting into an automobile accident; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that driving while on the phone is the same as being legally drunk or having a blood-alcohol level of .08 percent; and

WHEREAS, a study from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that drivers who text message while driving face a 23 times greater risk than undistracted drivers from crashing or having a near crash; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council encourages states to regulate cell phone use while driving and to include text messaging technology in any regulation; and

WHEREAS, a Federal Bill was recently proposed to reduce the amount of Federal highway funding available to States that do not enact a law prohibiting an individual from writing, sending, or reading text messages while operating a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Seventeen (17) States and the District of Columbia have already enacted legislation that prohibits an individual from writing, sending, or reading text messages while operating a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes that regulating text messaging while driving is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of residents of Coral Gables;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission does hereby urge the Florida Legislature to enact legislation prohibiting an individual from writing, sending, or reading text messages while operating a motor vehicle.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission does hereby direct the City Clerk to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, Mayor of Miami-Dade, and Representatives in the Florida Legislature, and to each of the thirty five municipalities comprising the Miami-Dade League of Cities.

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS THIRTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D., 2009.

(Moved: Cabrera / Seconded: Kerdyk)

(Yea: Kerdyk, Withers, Anderson, Cabrera, Slesnick)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: C-)

APPROVED:



DONALD D. SLESNICK II
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. POEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



ELIZABETH M. HERNANDEZ
CITY ATTORNEY