

Introduced by Treece Council Bill No. R 21-18

A RESOLUTION

expressing support for state legislation to prohibit the use of hand-held wireless communications devices while operating a motor vehicle; authorizing a letter of support.

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of all citizens is of critical importance to our community; and

WHEREAS, the National Transportation Safety Board, an independent federal agency responsible for promoting traffic safety and investigating accidents, recommends all states ban handheld cell phone use by drivers, except in emergency circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council estimates 1.3 million accidents involve drivers distracted by the use of cell phones each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 70,000 pedestrians are injured and 5,000 are killed by motor vehicles each year; and

WHEREAS, the NHTSA further reports that 80% of all accidents involve a distracted driver, and that using a cell phone while driving is among the top five distractions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia has set the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030; and

WHEREAS, using a hand-held wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle is dangerous to all users of a roadway; and

WHEREAS, members of the Missouri General Assembly will be considering legislation to expand current state law to prohibit drivers of all ages from using a hand-held wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for state legislation to prohibit the use of hand-held wireless communications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected officials.

SECTION 3. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to prepare a letter of support to provide to Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch for state legislation for the prohibition of the use of a mobile device while operating a motor vehicle. The form and content of the letter of support shall be substantially as set forth in "Exhibit A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

ADOPTED this 19th day of February, 2018.

ATTEST:

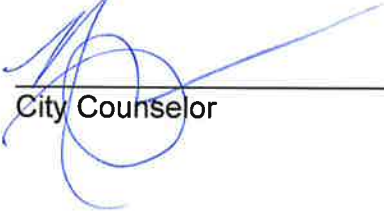


City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor