

## Chapter 18. Motor Vehicles and Traffic

### ARTICLE II. Operation

#### Sec. 18-49. Texting while operating motor vehicle.

[Ord. No. 2824, §§ 1 — 9, 12-1-2014]

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, no person operating a moving motor vehicle on roads exclusively within the jurisdiction of the City of Chesterfield, Missouri, by means of a hand-held electronic wireless communications device shall send, read or write a text message or electronic message.
- (b) The provisions of Subsection (a) of this Section shall not apply to a person operating:
  - (1) An authorized emergency vehicle; or
  - (2) A moving motor vehicle while using a hand-held electronic wireless communications device to:
    - a. Report illegal activity.
    - b. Summon medical or other emergency help.
    - c. Relay information between a transit or for-hire operator and that operator's dispatcher, in which the device is permanently affixed to the vehicle.
- (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted as prohibiting a person from making or taking part in a telephone call, by means of a hand-held electronic wireless communications device, while operating a motor vehicle on roads exclusively within the jurisdiction of the City.
- (d) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

#### **ELECTRONIC MESSAGE**

A self-contained piece of digital communication that is designed or intended to be transmitted between hand-held electronic wireless communication devices. "Electronic message" includes, but is not limited to, electronic mail, a text message, an instant message or a command or request to access an internet site.

#### **HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE**

Includes any hand-held cellular phone, Palm Pilot, Blackberry or other mobile electronic devices used to communicate verbally or by text or electronic messaging, but shall not apply to any device that is permanently embedded into the architecture and design of the motor vehicle.

#### **MAKING OR TAKING PART IN A TELEPHONE CALL**

Listening to or engaging in verbal communication through a hand-held electronic wireless communication device.

#### **SEND, READ OR WRITE A TEXT MESSAGE OR ELECTRONIC MESSAGE**

Using a hand-held electronic wireless telecommunications device to manually communicate with any person by using an electronic message. Sending, reading or writing a text message or electronic message does not include reading, selecting or entering a phone number or name into a hand-held electronic wireless communications device for the purpose of making a telephone call.

- (e) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to:
- (1) The operator of a vehicle that is lawfully parked or stopped.
  - (2) The use of factory-installed or aftermarket global positioning systems (GPS) or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system.
  - (3) The use of voice-operated technology.
  - (4) The use of two-way radio transmitters or receivers by a licensee of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service.
- (f) Violation of this Section shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed three (3) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.