

DRAFT

February 20, 2018

Hon. Cheri Toalson Reisch
Representative, 44th District
201 W. Capitol Ave., Room 110-A
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: City of Columbia, MO in support of cell phone legislation

Dear Representative Toalson Reisch,

In 2016, the City of Columbia adopted a Vision Zero Policy establishing a goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Identifying and supporting legislation that helps make our roadways safer is a specific initiative in our Vision Zero Action Plan and it is why we are contacting you in support of proposed legislation relating to the use of cell phone devices.

As you are aware, the use of a hand-held wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle increases the chance of traffic deaths and serious injuries on Missouri's roadways. According to the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety:

- Cell phones contributed to 2,470 crashes in Missouri in 2016.
- Reported crashes involving cell phones increased 11% in 2016.
- Texting increases the risk of a car crash by 50%.
- You are 23 times more likely to be in a critical incident when a driver texts and drives.

We believe that the traffic deaths and serious injuries caused by distracted driving are preventable. One way to help prevent these deaths and serious injuries is to prohibit all drivers from using a hand-held phone while operating a motor vehicle. We urge you to support the following pieces of legislation that relate to the prohibition of the use of a mobile device while operating a motor vehicle. House Bills: HB 1292, HB 1297, HB 1298, HB 1302, HB 1489, HB 1600, HB 1622, HB 1640, HB 1745, HB 1952, and HB 2095. Senate Bills: SB 749, SB 755, and SB 784. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions, and thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Treece
Mayor

Mike Matthes
City Manager

Clyde Ruffin
Ward 1 Council Member

Michael Trapp
Ward 2 Council Member

Karl Skala
Ward 3 Council Member

Ian Thomas
Ward 4 Council Member

Matt Pitzer
Ward 5 Council Member

Betsy Peters
Ward 6 Council Member