

A RESOLUTION

expressing support for state legislation to prohibit the use of handheld wireless communications devices while operating a motor vehicle; authorizing the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected or appointed officials.

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 safety and well-being of all citizens is of critical importance to our community and the City of Columbia has set the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030; and

WHEREAS, using a handheld wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle is dangerous to all users of a roadway and the National Transportation Safety Board recommends all states ban handheld cell phone use by drivers, except in emergency circumstances; 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 handheld 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 handheld wireless communications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected or appointed officials and to communicate the support of the City Council for passage of legislation prohibiting the use of handheld wireless devices while operating a motor vehicle.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Counselor