



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 3, 2018

TITLE: Resolution Urging the Florida Legislature to Enact Legislation Making
Texting While Driving a Primary Offense

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution encouraging the Florida Legislature to enact legislation making texting while driving (distracted driving) a primary traffic offense.

Background

Under present law, Texting While Driving is a secondary traffic offense which requires law enforcement officers to have observed an additional traffic violation to justify the stop of a vehicle. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were 476 fatalities and an estimated 30,000 injuries related to texting while driving in the United States in 2015. Of the forty-seven states that have banned texting while driving, all but four have made texting while driving a primary offense; of which Florida is among the four states that do not enforce texting while driving as a primary offense, but instead as a secondary offense. The Florida Police Chiefs Association has via FPCA Resolution 2017-2, urged the Florida Legislature to make Texting While Driving (distracted driving) a primary offense.

This resolution is consistent with the City's Vision Zero program.

Resource Impact

There is no funding impact.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 9: Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Resolution

Prepared by: Rick J. Maglione, Interim Chief of Police

Department Director: Rick J. Maglione, Interim Chief of Police