

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD MAKE TEXTING WHILE DRIVING A PRIMARY OFFENSE; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, distracted driving claimed 3,477 lives in 2015, according to the NHTSA, and;

WHEREAS, texting while driving is a form of distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, texting while driving requires all three types of driver distraction including visual, manual, and cognitive distraction; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council reports that the risk of a crash is four times more when a cell phone is in use; and

WHEREAS, drivers who text while driving endanger not only themselves but other motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians in their proximity; and

WHEREAS, of the 47 states that have banned texting while driving, Florida is among only four states that do not enforce texting while driving as a primary offense, but instead as a secondary offense; and

WHEREAS, a secondary offense is an offense for which a law enforcement officer can issue a ticket only if a driver has been pulled over for committing another traffic violation; and

WHEREAS, Florida citizens' concern over distracted driving has grown considerably, leading to the Florida Department of Transportation unveiling two campaigns: the "Put It Down Campaign" to raise awareness of the problem of distracted driving, and "Safe Phone Zones," which designate 64 spots throughout the state where drivers are encouraged to pull in to safely use their cellphones; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City Commission of the City of Key West urges the Florida Legislature to enact legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

Section 2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of Florida, President of the Florida Senate, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the Monroe County State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2017.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2017.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Richard Payne	_____
Commissioner Margaret Romero	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK