

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING
RESOLUTION 24-05 OF THE SUSTAINABILITY
ADVISORY BOARD; IN SUPPORT OF
LEGISLATION REQUIRING HANDS-FREE
HANDHELD DEVICE USE WHILE DRIVING;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a leading cause of motor vehicle crashes in the United States, contributing to thousands of injuries and fatalities each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that handheld device interaction while driving increases the risk of crashing by 23 times; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), also reports handheld device interaction while driving is six times more dangerous than driving under the influence of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, a study from Cambridge Mobile Telematics reported an increase in screen interaction time while driving of 17.8% from 2020 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, the use of handheld devices while driving significantly impairs a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle, diverting attention from the road and increasing reaction times; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving contributed to 1,446 crashes in Key West in the last five years, of which 73 involved serious injury

and 5 resulted in fatalities, affecting the safety of men, women, and children who reside in and visit the city; and

WHEREAS, crashes disproportionately affect vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, not protected by a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, implementing hands-free handheld device use legislation can reduce the incidence of distracted driving, promoting safer roadways for all; and

WHEREAS, 31 states have successfully enacted hands-free laws, resulting in a measurable decrease in crashes related to distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of our local government to advocate for the safety and well-being of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida accepts Resolution 24-05 of the Sustainability Advisory Board, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida hereby expresses its strong support for legislation mandating the use of hands-free devices while driving, and urges the Florida State Legislature to pass such legislation to enhance road safety and protect lives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Florida and the

Florida State Legislature to demonstrate our commitment to reducing distracted driving and improving the safety of our roadways.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2024.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2024.

Mayor Danise Henriquez	_____
Vice Mayor Lissette Carey	_____
Commissioner Aaron Castillo	_____
Commissioner Monica Haskell	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Donald "Donie" Lee	_____

DANISE HENRIQUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KERI O' /BRIEN, CITY CLERK