



MEMORANDUM

Date: December 12, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Todd C. Stoughton
Interim City Manager

From: Ryan Stachurski
Multimodal Transportation Coordinator

Subject: **File: 24-6769 / Accepting the Resolution 24-05 of the Sustainability Advisory Board; Recommending the Florida Legislature support State legislation for hands-free devices while driving**

Introduction

Recommend that the City Commission of the City of Key West, Florida, accept Resolution 24-05 of the Sustainability Advisory Board and adopt the proposed Resolution expressing the Commission's strong support for legislation mandating the use of hands-free devices while driving, and urging the Florida State Legislature to pass such legislation to enhance road safety and protect lives.

Background

Distracted driving is a leading cause of motor vehicle crashes in the United States, contributing to thousands of injuries and fatalities each year. In the City of Key West, of the 3,830 crashes reported in the five years from October 2019 through September 2024 available in the Signal Four Analytics tool, 1,446 were associated with distracted driving. Distracted driving was associated with 73 incapacitating injuries and 5 fatalities within this time period.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that cell phone use is the most common contributing distraction. States that have adopted a hands-free law have measured a decrease in fatalities.

In general, existing Florida Statutes (F.S. 316.305, 316.306) currently only restrict texting while driving, or using a hand-held cell phone in a work zone or school zone.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office requests the City Commission accept Resolution 24-05 of the Sustainability Advisory Board and approve the resolution expressing the Commission's strong support for legislation mandating the use of hands-free devices while driving and urging the Florida State Legislature to pass such legislation to enhance road safety and protect lives.