



**City of Long Beach**  
*Working Together to Serve*

**R-16**  
**Office of Dee Andrews**  
**Council Member, Sixth District**  
**Memorandum**

**Date:** April 20, 2010  
**To:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
**From:** Dee Andrews, Councilmember Sixth District *D.A.*  
**Subject:** **AGENDA ITEM:** Designate April 2010 as the Month of "No Texting While Driving"

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**DISCUSSION**

The City of Long Beach Department joins AT&T in its effort to educate the general public about the danger of texting while driving. Although the State of California implemented a ban on texting while driving, all residents should be reminded that this law is still in effect. We must do all that we can to keep our residents focused on what seems to be an epidemic.

Just recently Oprah Winfrey had a show completely dedicated to informing her listeners of the tragedy that can come from texting while driving. She urged everyone to give up texting while driving.

According to a study conducted by Harvard Center of Risk Analysis, cell phone use contributes to 6 percent of all crashes, which equates 636,000 crashes, 330,000 injuries, and 2600 deaths each year.

We all can remember the deadly train crash in Chatsworth, California which was caused by the engineer viewing a text message. As a result of his action 25 people lost their lives and more than 100 were injured.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Respectfully request the City Attorney to draft a resolution to designate April 2010 as the Month of "No Texting While Driving", as a way to bring about important awareness of many dangerous consequences. More and more people are losing their lives or badly injured due to a significant increase in distracted driving.

# RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, the City of Long Beach fully supports the no texting while driving ban in the State of California and the new public awareness and education campaign launched by AT&T, and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Long Beach promotes the health and safety of all Long Beach residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Long Beach views texting while driving as a seriously dangerous and deadly distraction; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Time Magazine "National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study that identified the cell phone as a serious safety hazard when used on the road"; and

**WHEREAS**, ArticlesBase wrote that Every day in 2008, over 800,000 people were using a mobile phone, texting, or calling while driving in the United States, making wireless devices the No. 1 source of driver inattention; and

**WHEREAS**, California passed a law in 2008 that made it illegal to talk on your cell phone while driving, unless the driver has a hands-free device; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 12, 2008, Chatsworth, California experienced a horrible and deadly train crash when the engineer viewed a text message, as a result 25 people died and more than 100 were injured ; and

**WHEREAS**, texting is considered riskier than driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs according to The Transport Research Laboratory; and

**WHEREAS**, Edgar Snyder & Associates reported that well over 6,000 Americans lost their lives due to cell phone use by texting or making or receiving calls via cell phone; and

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Long Beach, hereby promotes safe driving across California and hereby joins AT&T in its effort to educate the general public about the danger of texting while driving.

Presented By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dee Andrews  
Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District