

RESOLUTION

2015-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TATUM, TEXAS REGARDING NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING.

WHEREAS, The City of Tatum holds the health and safety of the citizens of the City of Tatum and Rusk County as a paramount concern;

WHEREAS, several studies have demonstrated that drivers distracted by the use of cell phones and other electronic devices are at increased risk for unsafe driving and crashes;

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Texas Department of Transportation reported that the state of Texas had 95,170 crashes due to distracted drivers, which resulted in 460 fatalities and 18,635 serious injuries;

WHEREAS, wireless phone use has become widespread throughout our community, state and the nation as a whole;

WHEREAS, the use of text messages has become rampant in recent years;

WHEREAS, any time a driver attempts to send an electronic text message while driving, his or her attention is diverted from driving;

WHEREAS, a recent Pew Internet & American Life Project study found that 26% of American teens of driving age say that they have texted while driving, and 48% of all teens twelve to seventeen years of age say that they have been a passenger while a driver has sent a text message;

WHEREAS, a recent Nationwide Insurance study showed that 80% of respondents support some type of ban on sending text messages or emails while driving;

WHEREAS, a recent Virginia Tech study showed that sending electronic text messages while driving makes an accident twenty-three times more likely;

WHEREAS, in September 2010 the United States Department of Transportation has banned all commercial truck and bus drivers from sending electronic text messages while driving;

WHEREAS, in January 2012 the Federal Motor Carrier Association and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration published a joint final rule prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones by Commercial Motor Vehicle interstate and intrastate truck drivers; and

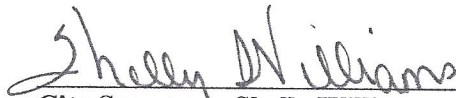
WHEREAS, Texas is one of only six states that allow electronic text messages while driving;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Tatum promotes safe driving in the City of Tatum, across Rusk County and the State of Texas and hereby encourages the Texas State Legislature to pass a statewide ban on texting while driving and the use of all hand-held electronic devices while driving.

Adopted the 9th day of March, 2015


Mayor Phil Cory

ATTEST:


City Secretary, Shelly Williams

