

AGENDA



Thursday, October 22, 2009

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 28**

Subject: Approve ordinance amending section 12-1-1 and creating section 12-1-34 of the City Code to prohibit the use of wireless communication devices for electronic messaging while operating a motor vehicle, and creating an offense.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: David Carter, APD Chief of Staff / 974-5030

This action is to approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 12-1 (Traffic Regulations and Administration) prohibiting the use of electronic messages from wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle or bicycle. An electronic message includes, but is not limited to, a text-based communication, a command or request to access an internet site, or other data that uses a commonly recognized electronic communications protocol.

The Street Smarts Task Force developed policy recommendations to City Council that were eventually absorbed into the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan. This particular recommendation fell outside the purview of the 2009 Bicycle Master Plan. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute showed that text messaging while driving increases the risk of a crash or near crash by 20 times.

This ordinance promotes the interest of overall transportation safety.