

Proposed: 3/15/2021

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2021 (PSH)

By Council Member

A Resolution expressing approval and support for the Hands-Free Ohio provisions in Governor DeWine's state budget proposal; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine's state budget proposal includes provisions, referred to as Hands-Free Ohio, that would make driving while handling any electronic wireless device a primary offense for adult drivers and would increase fines for drivers who habitually use devices while driving; and

WHEREAS, in cases where a driver using a device causes serious injury or death, the penalties would mirror those of drunken driving; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine's Hands-Free Ohio provisions would prohibit several actions while driving, including: writing, sending, or reading text-based communications; watching or recording videos; taking photos or looking at images; live streaming; using apps; entering information into GPS navigation programs; dialing phone numbers; and holding a device for a phone call; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10% of fatal crashes and 15% of serious injury crashes in the US in 2015 were distraction-related, amounting to a total of 3,477 people killed and an estimated additional 391,000 injured in crashes involving distracted drivers; and

WHEREAS, effective distracted driving laws and stringent penalties for the same are pivotal in discouraging drivers from using electronic devices while driving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The City of Cleveland Heights hereby expresses its approval and support for the Hands-Free Ohio provisions in Governor DeWine's state budget proposal.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio House Speaker Robert Cupp, Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof, Ohio House Representative Janine Boyd, and Ohio Senator Sandra Williams.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

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SECTION 4. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to express support and approval of the foregoing at the earliest time possible. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

JASON S. STEIN
President of the Council

AMY HIMMELEIN
Clerk of Council

PASSED: