



Contact: Amy Berlean
Phone: 296-2415
Email: amy.berlean@ketteringoh.org

City Council Passes Legislation to Make Texting While Driving Illegal
Law takes effect January 3

21 December 11 – Kettering City Council has passed legislation that will make texting while driving (TWD) illegal. After waiting for movement from the State to enact a ban on the activity, Council decided to move forward with a local law in lieu of State action. The City will, however, repeal the local law in deference to State law should House Bill 99 pass.

“We would certainly prefer that the State issue legislation,” says Mayor Don Patterson, “but House Bill 99 doesn’t seem to be moving through the Senate very quickly and we feel that the time to start educating our residents about the dangers of texting is now. We can’t wait.”

The education that Mayor Patterson speaks of is an extensive campaign to warn residents and anyone traveling through the community that texting while driving is not only prohibited in Kettering, but creates a dangerous roadway system for everyone.

“The law is less about enforcement and more about changing behavior,” he says.

Internal conversations about the legislation have taken place about the challenge of enforcing a texting while driving (TWD) ban. But Council agreed in a 7-0 vote to enact a law and begin a community wide campaign to educate people of all ages about the inherent dangers of texting behind the wheel.

“We will begin our education campaign immediately,” says City Manager Mark Schwieterman. “Signage will go up on January 3 at 22 different locations throughout the City, the first PSA will run during the Mayor’s State of the City address on January 24 and we will begin a series of articles and releases that will target all motorists in Kettering.”

Though the law will go into effect January 3, 2012 there will be a 6 month grace period before the first citation can be issued. This 6 month grace period allows City administration to employ the education campaign before anyone can be cited.

To read the ordinance as it was passed, go to www.ketteringoh.org

