

COMMENDING
NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

WHEREAS, Marin County holds the health and safety of its citizens as a paramount concern; and

WHEREAS, wireless phone use has become ubiquitous through our community, California, and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the use of text messages has grown exponentially in recent years; and

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

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 12 to 17 say that they have been a passenger while a driver has sent a text message; and

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

WHEREAS, a recent Virginia Tech study showed sending electronic text messages while driving makes an accident 23 times more likely; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by The Transport Research Laboratory in the United Kingdom showed that sending text messages while driving is riskier than driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and

WHEREAS, a driver that attempts to send electronic text messages while driving is not just a hazard to themselves, but to passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians as well; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has banned all commercial truck and bus drivers from sending electronic text messages while driving, with the support of the drivers' unions; and

WHEREAS, it is illegal to send electronic text messages while driving in the State of California.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 18th day of May 2010.