

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 2025

Agenda Item:

Resolution No. 2025-03 Support of Legislation requiring Hands-Free Cell and Handheld Device Use While Driving

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03

Background:

The Village of Estero was contacted to ask for your support to end distracted driving and about the need for legislation to require hands-free cellphone use while driving. 31 other states already have this life-saving legislation in place, and Florida is long overdue. The current laws are too weak and have loopholes that make them unenforceable.

The coalition was able to get last year's House bill unanimously through all three committees but failed to get a hearing in the Senate. They have been making strong progress with the Senate leadership who didn't understand the importance and need for this legislation. They're confident that 2025 will be the year that drivers will be prohibited from holding a device while driving on every road in Florida, and we'll many lives will be saved.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has stated that interacting with a device behind the wheel is six times more dangerous than driving under the influence of alcohol. This is not a civil liberties issue, but a common sense, life-saving matter. We are required by law to wear a seatbelt in vehicles, and that only protects the occupants.

Hands-Free Cell Phone Use legislation will protect the lives of every road user, especially those most vulnerable who bike or walk and don't have thousands of pounds of steel around them. On average, nine people die on Florida roads every day, and six of these tragedies are attributed to distracted driving. We simply cannot wait another year to enact this vital legislation.

Description:

Action Requested:

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03

Process and Timeline:

Adopt Resolution No. 2025-03 on March 19, 2025.

Financial Impact:

n/a

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Attachment:

1. Resolution No. 2025-03