

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING HANDS-FREE CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a leading cause of motor vehicle accidents in the United States, contributing to thousands of injuries and fatalities each year; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that texting while driving increases the risk of crashing by 23 times; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), also reports texting while driving is six times more dangerous than driving under the influence of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, a study from Cambridge Mobile Telematics reported an increase in screen interaction time while driving of 17.8% from 2020 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, the use of handheld devices while driving significantly impairs a driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle, diverting attention from the road and increasing reaction times; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis in the 2024 Indian River County Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, the number of traffic crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians more than doubled and the number of traffic crashes involving fatalities more than tripled during the years 2017-2021 in comparison to the previous five-year period; and

WHEREAS, implementing hands-free cell phone use legislation can reduce the incidence of distracted driving, promoting safer roadways for all; and

WHEREAS, 31 states have successfully enacted hands-free laws, resulting in a measurable decrease in accidents related to distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of our local government to advocate for the safety and well-being of our community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:

1. The Board hereby expresses its strong support for legislation mandating the use of hands-free devices while driving and urges the Florida State Legislature to pass such legislation to

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enhance road safety and protect lives. Staff is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of Florida, Florida State Senator Grall and State Representative Robert Brackett.

2. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

3. The foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Commissioner _____ and seconded by Commissioner _____, and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Chairman Joseph E. Flescher	_____
Vice-Chairman Deryl Loar	_____
Commissioner Susan Adams	_____
Commissioner Joseph H. Earman	_____
Commissioner Laura Moss	_____

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 28th day of January, 2025.

ATTEST: Ryan L. Butler, Clerk of Court
and Comptroller

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

(SEAL)

By: _____
Jennifer W. Shuler, County Attorney