

MOTION

Distracted driving is a major cause of traffic fatalities in the United States, with nearly 3,500 deaths and 400,000 injuries resulting from traffic collisions caused by distracted driving in 2015 alone. Texting while driving is a major factor in distracted driving, and states across the country, including California, have enacted laws in an effort to curb the use of mobile phones by drivers. However, the problem still persists, and every day, a person is killed or injured as a result of a driver deciding to send or read text messages while operating a vehicle.

Often, when a driver who is texting or otherwise distracted notices a marked police vehicle, they put down their phone, only to pick it up again once they have passed the officer. In an effort to change driver behavior and reduce the number of deaths resulting from texting and driving, law enforcement agencies in multiple jurisdictions across the United States have begun utilizing unmarked vehicles, non-police vehicles such as buses, undercover officers at intersections, and other novel enforcement tools to catch distracted drivers in the act. These strategies may be useful in Los Angeles, and it would benefit the Council to hear a presentation on the ways the Police Department is enforcing distracted driving laws in the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department (LAPD) report on its strategy for curtailing distracted driving and texting while driving, and on the potential use of undercover officers, unmarked vehicles, non-police vehicles and other enforcement tools to enforce distracted driving laws.

PRESENTED BY 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
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SECONDED BY 

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