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# TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS 740 MAIN STREET

2015 FEB 27 P 2: 59

TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

MARCH 3, 2015

Announcement of Exit Locations (C.G.S. § 29-381)

Pledge of Allegiance

7:30 p.m.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA
- 3. RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS
- 4. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS
  - A. Other Elected Officials
    - B. Other Residents
    - C. Mayor
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. February 17, 2015 Regular Meeting
  - B. February 23, 2015 Budget Workshop/Police and Fire Departments
  - C. February 25, 2015 Budget Workshop/Inspections & Permits and Board of Education
  - D. February 28, 2015 Budget Work Shop/Various Department
- 6. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS
- 7. OLD BUSINESS
- 8. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG): Violent Crime Prevention
  - B. DOT: Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant
- 9. OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION
- 10. COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS
- 11. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK
  - A. Other Elected Officials
  - B. Other Residents
  - C. Mayor
- 12. ADJOURNMENT (next meeting: March 17th)

#### EAST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

#### **TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

FEBRUARY 17, 2015

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PRESENT

Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr. (left 8:45 p.m.), Majority Leader Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The Chair announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381, after which the Council joined him in the pledge of allegiance.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

MOTION

By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Bill Horan

to amend the agenda as follows:

Under New Business, add "Appointment of Adrian Spence to

the Board of Assessment Appeals".

Motion carried 9/0.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS

<u>Susan Kniep</u>, Olde Roberts Street, (1) suggested that any information on the pension valuation be uploaded to the town's website; (2) is concerned about the bills proposed by the East Hartford legislative delegation to expand the boundaries of the Capital Region Development Authority; and (3) is opposed to any proposed bill which would allow more affordable housing in the town of East Hartford.

Mayor Leclerc (1) stated that her budget for FY2015-2016 is ready to pass along to the Council; (2) there will be two special joint meetings with the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission to review the expansion plans of UTC on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers; (3) asked residents who have a fire hydrant on their property to shovel out that area; and (4) will continue with snow removal to widen town streets.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 3, 2015 Executive Session

MOTION

By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Ram Aberasturia

to **approve** the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Executive Session. Motion carried 9/0.

#### February 3, 2015 Public Hearing

MOTION

By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Pat Harmon

to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Public Hearing.

Motion carried 9/0.

#### February 3, 2015 Regular Meeting

MOTION

By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Marc Weinberg

to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried 9/0.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

#### Capital Region Development Authority Update

Mayor Leclerc shared with the Council the PowerPoint presentation that she gave to the members of the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) at their January 8, 2015 meeting. Mayor Leclerc indicated five areas in town that would benefit from expanding the areas where the CRDA's financial assistance programs could be use: Waterfront, Founders Plaza, Rentschler Field, Goodwin College and the Showcase Cinemas (Silver Lane). These areas were also referenced in the town's Plan of Conservation and Development. If state legislation proposed by CRDA is approved, the town could use 'gap' funding to assist private developers in these prime commercial areas.

The Mayor indicated that her presentation to the CRDA met with 100% approval by the Board of Directors. Additionally, Mayor Leclerc is working with State Representative Jason Rojas to ensure that legislation allowing certain East Hartford areas to benefit from CRDA programs is proposed.

At this point, Vice Chair Horan left the meeting.

#### <u>Pension Valuation, Experience Study, COLA Review and Investment Results</u> <u>Presentations</u>

<u>Joseph Carlson</u>, Town Treasurer and Chair of the Pension and Retiree Benefit Board (Retirement Board), stated that the pension portfolio's current value has assets of \$212M as of December 3, 2014, and that the target allocation is comprised of 65% equities and 35% fixed income.

#### Segal Company: Pension Contributions for FY2015-2016

Ann Gineo, Senior Vice President and Consulting Actuary, and John Stiefel, Vice President and Consulting Actuary reviewed the town's pension plan through a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Gineo explained what the actuaries do each year; collect data from the town on the retirees and gather information on the active employees in the pension plan. This data is compared with the assumptions on which projected town pension obligations are based. There were several adjustments including a positive adjustment because the market return exceeded the assumed rate of 8% and a negative adjustment because wages increased at a rate higher than expected due to retroactive payments for union contracts settled last year.

As a result, Mr. Stiefel reported that the town's contribution needed to fund the pension plan, after including employee contributions, for the 2015-2016FY is \$12,130,506, which is an increase of approximately \$1.1M.

#### 3D Asset Management: Discussion of the Town's Portfolio - Equity Side

<u>John O'Connor</u>, President of 3D Asset Management, Inc., presented the returns on the equity side of the Town's portfolio. Mr. O'Connor stated that 3D manages three accounts for the town: Pension Equity Account – which is a stock account, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) stock account and a cash transfer account.

The pension investments for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, saw an increase of 22%. The OPEB account shows a19.44% increase for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Because of asset smoothing, the full benefit of this increase is not reflected in the town's contribution.

#### Fiduciary Investment Advisors: Discussion of the Town's Portfolio - Fixed Income Side

<u>Christopher Kachmar</u>, Chief Investment Officer of Fiduciary Investment Advisors (FIA) addressed the returns on the fixed income side of the Town's portfolio. Mr. Kachmar's presentation showed that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the relative performance rate for the town's pension plan was 0.2%, while the relative performance rate for the town's OPEB trust was 0.4%.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Appointment of Adrian Spence to the Board of Assessment Appeals

MOTION

By Barbara Rossi

seconded by Linda Russo

to approve the appointment of Adrian Spence to the Board

of Assessment Appeals, whose term shall expire December 2017.

Motion carried 8/0.

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNCILLORS TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION

<u>Esther Clarke</u> inquired why the Hartford Courant does not have a reporter covering the town issues on a daily basis as had been the standard in years past. The Mayor noted the absence of a Courant reporter, but did not have any insights into the decisions made by the management of the newspaper.

#### COUNCIL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS

None

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

None

#### <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

MOTION

By Esther Clarke

seconded by Ram Aberasturia

to adjourn (9:50 p.m.). Motion carried 8/0.

The Chair announced that the next *regular* meeting of the Town Council would be on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; he announced the budget workshop schedule as follows: February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>; March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> (Public Hearing) and March 10<sup>th</sup> (Special Budget Meeting).

Attest

OAngela M. Attenello
TOWN COUNCIL CLERK

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#### TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

#### TOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

#### **FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

#### BUDGET WORKSHOP/POLICE and FIRE DEPARTMENTS

**PRESENT** 

Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader Barbara-Ann

Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo,

Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D. Morrison

ALSO

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc and Finance Director Michael P. Walsh

PRESENT

Fire Chief John Oates

Assistant Fire Chief William Perez
Chief of Police Scott Sansom

Deputy Chiefs of Police: Beau Thurnauer, Tim McConville, Mack Hawkins & Robert Davis

Lieutenant Ricardo Soto

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:41p.m. He announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381 after which he led the Town Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Leclerc addressed the Council on her recommended budget for the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the budget in general. Chair Kehoe provided an overview of the Council's review of the Mayor's proposed budget, which will culminate in a projected adoption of the budget on March 10, 2015.

The Council reviewed the following departments' 2015-2016 budgets:

#### Fire Department: (6:53 p.m.)

Fire Chief Oates presented an overview of his department's budget and answered questions from the Councillors.

#### Police Department: (8:45 p.m.)

Chief of Police Scott Sansom presented an overview of his department's budget and answered questions from the Councillors.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION

By Esther Clarke

seconded by Bill Horan to adjourn (10:05 p.m.). Motion carried 9/0.

Attest\_

Richard F. Kehoe

Town Council Chair

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#### TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

#### LOWN CLERK EAST HARTFORD

#### FEBRUARY 25, 2015

#### BUDGET WORKSHOP/ INSPECTIONS & PERMITS, BOARD OF EDUCATION

**PRESENT** 

Chair Richard F. Kehoe, Vice Chair William P. Horan, Jr., Majority Leader Barbara-Ann Rossi, Minority Leader Esther B. Clarke, Councillors Marc I. Weinberg, Linda A. Russo, Ram Aberasturia, Patricia Harmon and Anita D.

Morrison

ALSO PRESENT Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools

Anne Marie Mancini, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Curriculum

Cynthia Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Curriculum

Paul Mainuli, Director of Business Services

Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Christopher Wethje, Human Resources, East Hartford Public Schools

Al Costa, Director of Facilities

Bryan R. Hall, Chair, Board of Education

Members of the Board of Education: Tyron Harris, Tom Rupp & Valerie Scheer

Gregg Grew, Director, Inspections & Permits Department

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kehoe called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. He announced the exit locations in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §29-381, after which he led the Town Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director of Inspections & Permits Gregg Grew (6:37 p.m.) presented his proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 and answered questions from the Council.

Chair of the East Hartford Board of Education Bryan Hall and Superintendent Nathan Quesnel (7:14 p.m.), reviewed the Board's proposed 2015-2016 fiscal year budget and an overview of the operations of the East Hartford Public Schools with the Town Council. In addition, Al Costa provided an overview of the East Hartford Middle School window wall project and the Langford School roof project which are contained in the Mayor's budget as bond-funded projects.

MOTION

By Esther Clarke seconded by Bill Horan to adjourn (9:41 p.m.). Motion carried 9/0.

Attest

Richard F. Kehoe Town Council Chair



#### TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Date:

February 25, 2015

TO:

Richard F. Kehoe, Chair

FROM:

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc

RE:

**RESOLUTION:** Justice Assistance Grant Program Violent Crime Prevention

Solicitation

The Town of East Hartford is eligible for funding under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program's Violent Crime Prevention Solicitation.

The JAG grant will provide our police department with violent crime prevention and public safety improvements. This one-time funding opportunity of \$34,000 does not require matching funds.

Attached is a draft resolution authorizing an application to the State Office of Policy and Management for the grant funding. Please place this information on the agenda for the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 meeting. I recommend that the Town Council approve this request as submitted and adopt the attached resolution.

Cc:

P. O'Sullivan, Grants Manager

I, Angela M. Attenello, the duly appointed Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of East Hartford, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereby certify that the following is a true copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting of the East Hartford Town Council of said corporation, duly held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2015.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is providing grant funds to eligible municipal police departments to fund violent crime prevention and public safety improvements through the federally-funded Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Program's Violent Crime Prevention Solicitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of this grant is to assist local governments with preventing violent crime and improving public safety;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED; That Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by OPM and the U.S. Department of Justice as they pertain to the JAG Program's Violent Crime Prevention Solicitation.

AND I DO CERTIFY that the above resolution has not been in any way altered, amended, or repealed, and is now in full force and effect.

N WITNESS WHEREOF, I do I	and affix the corporate	seal of said

Angela M. Attenello, Town Council Clerk

## GRANTS ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM

TO:

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc

FROM:

Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Manager ANDL

SUBJECT:

Council Resolution – Justice Assistance Grant Program

Violent Crime Prevention Solicitation

DATE:

February 20, 2015

Attached is a draft resolution authorizing an application to the state Office of Policy and Management for grant funding under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program's Violent Crime Prevention Solicitation.

The purpose of this solicitation is to assist local police departments with violent crime prevention and public safety improvements. The grant is funded by the federal JAG program, and is a "one-time" funding opportunity. No matching funds are required for the grant.

Under the terms of the program, East Hartford qualifies for a grant of \$34,000. Potential uses for the funds include police protective gear and equipment, body-worn and cruiser camera systems and officer training. I have attached an excerpt from the Grant Application Rules and Requirements which provides more information on this program.

I respectfully request that this item be placed on the Town Council agenda for their meeting to be held on March 3, 2015. Please contact me at extension 7206 if you have any questions.

Attachments (2)

Cc: Eileen Buckheit, Development Director

## Justice Assistance Grant Program Violent Crime Prevention (VCP) Solicitation

### Grant Application Rules and Requirements FEBRUARY 17, 2015

The **State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)** is providing grants to assist local police departments with violent crime prevention and public safety improvements.

The grant is funded by the federal Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) program.

- This is a "one-time" grant.
- ❖ No future "continuation" or "supplemental" funds are available.
- Primary purpose of this grant is to assist local governments with preventing violent crime and improving public safety.

Purpose Areas: The JAG VCP grant must address one or more of the following purpose areas:

- \* Reduce and prevent violent crime and gun violence
- \* Reduce and prevent gang violence
- Support and expand community policing strategies
- ♦ Improve police response to domestic violence and sexual assault crime
- Improve police response to mentally ill offenders

Eligibility: The JAG VCP Grant is available to ninety-two local governments with "organized police departments".

**Grant Allocation**: Funds are allocated to municipalities based on violent crime rate (VCR). (Please refer to attached *JAG VCP ALLOCATION Chart*.)

Match Requirement: There is NO match requirement for the JAG VCP grant.

#### Use of Funds:

Police departments must submit a "Narrative" description of the proposed use of funds as well as a "Budget". JAG VCP funds may be used for the following types of goods, services and activities which must be described and detailed in the "Narrative" and "Budget".

- Police training curriculum and officer training time
- Community policing events, training and technical assistance
- Body-worn cameras and cruiser camera systems
- Cruiser equipment, mobile data terminal, license plate reader and other cruiser equipment
- Communication and dispatch technology
- Information technology, computers and peripheral equipment
- · Police over-time for "special" operation, task force or multi-jurisdictional investigation
- Police protective gear and officer equipment
- Technology and equipment for tactical response, surveillance and investigation



#### TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Date:

February 25, 2015

TO:

Richard F. Kehoe, Chair

FROM:

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc

RE:

RESOLUTION: CT DOT Highway Safety Grant 2015 Distracted Driving

**High Visibility Enforcement** 

The Town of East Hartford is eligible to apply to the State Department of Transportation for a Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant funded through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The Grant will allow East Hartford officers to participate in grant-funded mobilizations targeting distracted drivers, and the hand-held mobile phone ban.

The Town will be required to provide matching resources in the amount of 25 percent of the project cost, and can be fulfilled on an in-kind basis.

Attached is a draft resolution authorizing an application to the State Department of Transportation for the grant funding. Please place this information on the agenda for the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 meeting. I recommend that the Town Council approve this request as submitted and adopt the attached resolution.

Cc:

P. O'Sullivan, Grants Manager

I, Angela M. Attenello, the duly appointed Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of East Hartford, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, hereby certify that the following is a true copy of a Resolution adopted at a meeting of the East Hartford Town Council of said corporation, duly held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2015.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are offering grant funds to municipal police departments to participate in the 2015 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign; and

**WHEREAS**, this campaign will focus on motorists who choose to ignore Connecticut's hand-held mobile phone ban; and

**WHEREAS,** over 1,300 people are injured every day on our nation's highways as a result of distracted driving crashes

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**; That Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor of the Town of East Hartford, is authorized to make application to, and execute and approve on behalf of this corporation, any and all documents, contracts, and amendments as may be required by CT DOT and NHTSA as they pertain to the 2015 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Campaign.

AND I DO CERTIFY that the above resolution has not been in any way altered, amended, or repealed, and is now in full force and effect.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I do hereunto set my hand and affix the corporate seal of said Town of East Hartford this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2015.

Angela M. Attenello, Town Council Clerk

## GRANTS ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM

TO:

Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc

FROM:

Paul O'Sullivan, Grants Manager JANAL

SUBJECT:

Council Resolution - CT DOT Highway Safety Grant

2015 Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement

DATE:

February 20, 2015

Attached is a draft resolution authorizing an application to the state Department of Transportation for a Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant.

This grant is funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and will allow East Hartford officers to participate in grant-funded mobilizations targeting distracted drivers – focusing on motorists who choose to ignore Connecticut's hand-held mobile phone ban.

The grant requires the Town to provide matching resources in the amount of 25 percent of the project cost. This requirement can be fulfilled on an in-kind (non-cash) basis. In-kind match is typically in the form of the value of personnel (officer time), goods, and services provided by the Town to accomplish the goals of the grant.

I have attached a Fact Sheet from NHTSA that explains the program in more detail.

I respectfully request that this item be placed on the Town Council agenda for their meeting to be held on March 3, 2015. Please contact me at extension 7206 if you have any questions.

Attachments (2)

Cc: Eileen Buckheit, Development Director





#### DISTRACTED DRIVING FACT SHEET

#### WHAT IS DISTRACTED DRIVING?

- Distracted driving is any non driving activity that takes your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel or interrupts your concentration while driving that increases the risk of crashing.
- Distractions can be visual, manual or cognitive. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices while driving poses a significant risk to all who use our roadways.

#### HOW SERIOUS IS THE PROBLEM?

- ♣ Nationwide, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted driver while more than half a million were injured. Over 1300 people are injured every day on our nation's highways as a result of a distracted driving crash. (NHTSA)
- Drivers who use hand held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)
- Driving while using a cell phone reduces brain activity associated with driving by 37 per cent (Carnegie-Mellon)

#### WHAT IS NHTSA DOING TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM?

NHTSA continues to monitor research, collect data, promote legislation, and encourage public awareness and education. NHTSA is also conducting high visibility enforcement projects in two States-Connecticut and New York. Both States have excellent laws, strong commitment, and effective traffic enforcement programs. These projects will apply proven high visibility enforcement and public awareness strategies used to increase safety belt use and reduce impaired driving in recent years.

#### WHAT WILL THE CAMPAIGN LOOK LIKE?

- The campaign will consist of focused collaborative enforcement among State and local police agencies in the Hartford metro area during concentrated enforcement periods combined with paid media over the course of one year. The campaign will track changes in observed cell phone use and driver attitudes, awareness, and self reported behavior.
- Beginning April 10, law enforcement will be out in full force making sure drivers keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel as part of the metro area's first distracted driving crackdown. Anyone caught texting or talking on a cell phone in violation of State law will be ticketed. Law enforcement will take a zero tolerance approach. The campaign theme will be "Phone In One Hand, Ticket in the Other"

#### WHAT IS THE DISTRACTED DRIVING LAW IN CONNECTICUT?

- No person shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway while using a hand held mobile telephone to engage in a call or while using a mobile electronic device while such vehicle is in motion.
- No person under eighteen (18) years of age shall use a hand held mobile telephone (including one with a hands free accessory) or a mobile electronic device while operating a moving motor vehicle on a highway
- No person shall engage in any activity not related to the actual operation of a motor vehicle that interferes with its safe operation on a highway.

#### WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE DISTRACTED DRIVING PROBLEM IN CONNECTCUT?

- According to NHTSA 20 per cent of all crashes that occurred nationwide in 2008 involved some type of distraction. This information is not available on a State by State basis. Beginning in January, 2010 law enforcement agencies in CT were requested to include distracted driving as a contributing factor in the narrative of the State crash report.
- Since October, 2005 almost 117,000 cell phone and distracted driving citations have been issued in CT by State and local police (Source: CT CIB)
- In addition to the human cost, fatal crashes alone resulted in over \$300 million in injury related costs to the State (lost work, health care costs, long term care etc) (Source: NHTSA)

#### WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC DO TO REDUCE DISTRACTED DRIVING AND SUPPORT THIS CAMPAIGN?

Strengthen the efforts to eliminate distracted driving by adding your voice and experience to the Community. Find out what the distracted driving law is in your State. If your State does not have a cell phone or texting ban, or has limited or a weak distracted driving law, become a champion for legislation. Call or write your State legislators and let them know you support distracted driving laws.

#### WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO KEEP THEIR TEENS SAFE FROM THE RISKS OF DRIVING DISTRACTED?

- Studies show that parents have a great influence on teen behavior. While you may not think you have great influence, that's it's all about peer pressure, you're still the greatest influence on your teen. Talk to your teen and set rules to keep your teens from driving while distracted. Know the facts and share it with them. Engage your teens in a dialogue about the problem.
- Know the law. Many Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws have cell phone and texting bans for your drivers. Make sure you and your teen driver know the law and that your teen driver adheres to the rules. In addition to the consequences that you have set at home, if your teen violates the GDL law they could have their license delayed or suspended.

#### WHERE CAN THE PUBLIC GET MORE INFORMATION ON DISTRACTED DRIVING?

The US Department of Transportation maintains a web site called <a href="www.distraction.gov">www.distraction.gov</a> to provide citizens with valuable information on the issue. The site provides information on how to get involved, State laws, facts and statistics, ongoing research, media materials, and internal activities within DOT to reduce distracted driving.