

From: HankElkins [mailto:HankElkins@mindspring.com] **On Behalf Of** nancy@elkins.com
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 7:06 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Cell phone hearing

Another meeting will keep me away from the hearing on driving while cell phoning. I am firmly convinced that it should be illegal to do telephoning while driving any vehicle. This should include not only hand-held phones. One does not have to be holding a phone to be seriously distracted from accuracy in driving.

Penalty for violation of this proposed ordinance should be hefty enough to inspire obedience.

Thank you for your care and concern for our citizens.

Nancy Elkins
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From: Terry MAGUIRE [mailto:tmaguire@newspaper.com]

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 9:30 AM

To: Town Council

Cc: mschultz@newsobserver.com

Subject: Cell phones - your personal practices?

Before the cell phone "forum" this evening, I (i.e., a public reponse) would like to hear from each of you a simple answer to one or two questions....

First, do you ever use a cell phone while driving in Chapel Hill? If no, I applaud you!

Second, if the answer to the first question is yes, will you pledge publicly this evening to stop using any cell phone while driving in Chapel Hill? (And, if you will not, why not?)

Thank you.

Terry MAGUIRE

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Until end of March:

Chapel Hill, NC

1-919-960-4503

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April:

Nice, France

(33)(0)4.93.89.45.14

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13-15 April:

WAN-IFRA Printing Summit

Salzburg, Austria

From: Kellie Mannette [mailto:kdmannette@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:45 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: Cell Phones

Dear Mayor Kleinschmidt and Town Council:

I had intended to come to the forum tonight about the use of cell phones while driving. I do not believe I will be able to attend, but I wanted to pass along some information.

I have a concern with the potential ban on the use of cell phones while driving. The way I understand this ban, it would become a city code violation to use a cell phone while driving. A city code violation is considered a misdemeanor in North Carolina, and would create a criminal record for offenders. It also could potentially result in active time for certain offenders. This seems particularly unfair in light of the recent ban on texting, as texting while driving is more dangerous than talking on a cell phone, but is only an infraction. As an infraction, those convicted of texting while driving are subject only to a fine, and do not end up with a criminal record.

I hope you will consider the possible consequences before implementing the ban. Thank you.

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From: steve moore [mailto:srm913r@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:00 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Cell Phone Use by Drivers

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON WHY A DRIVER NEEDS TO USE A CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING! If they urgently need to talk for whatever reason, they can pull off the road and do so. There are a growing number of drivers who feel that they can talk on their cell phones in Chapel Hill and do so totally without interference from anyone. Individual self control in this matter is largely unknown. In the past month, I have barely missed being hit in my car twice by drivers on their cell phones and totally ignoring drivers around them. Research indicates that the danger is real and absolute for drivers using cell phones on other drivers. There is no legitimate argument why anyone should be allowed to talk on cell phones while driving - convenience does not overrule public safety!

To protect the public and assure the safety of those not talking on cell phones, it is urgent that the Council act now to **ban all cell phone use by drivers in cars** in Chapel Hill. This being done, it is also urgent that the town police force them be mandated to enforce this rule since they seem to have a great deal of trouble enforcing current speed limits on streets and enforcing the noise laws for boom-box cars. When allowed to set their own priorities, they fail to do those things that even now need enforcement!

Act now to ban all cell phone use by drivers in cars on all city streets!

Steve Moore

From: Tim Williams [mailto:twilliams12@nc.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:53 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: Re: cellphone use

I am unable to attend the public forum this week on cellphone use in the town, but would like to make the following comments:

I am sure the Mayor and council are familiar with the research which has shown that someone driving while talking on a cellphone - even hands-free - is as unsafe a driver as someone driving legally drunk.

My personal experience: twice, while waiting to cross the intersection of MLK Blvd and Estes Drive, I had the unnerving experience of the driver in the oncoming lane starting up as the light changed and veering to his/her left, heading straight towards me! In both cases, fortunately, he/she was able to straighten up in time, otherwise they would have hit me head on. And, of course, in both cases the driver was talking on a phone.

Again, in the last week, while driving up MLK a driver on my left, heading in the same direction, veered dangerously close into my lane, requiring me to slow down suddenly to avoid being sideswiped. And again, this driver was talking on her cellphone.

I urge you very strongly to forbid the operation of cellphones, hands-free included, while driving within the town limits.

Many thanks,
Tim Williams
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Chapel Hill.