



## NEWS RELEASE

**DATE: April 8, 2010**

Contact: Mike Baranyay, PIO @ 915.564.7322 or 915.564.6950 Pager #1653

### WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE ORDINANCE CLARIFICATION FACT SHEET

EL PASO, TEXAS – This fact sheet is meant to clarify any confusion regarding the recent passing of and enforcement of the Wireless Communication Device Ordinance.

#### BACKGROUND

The wireless communication device ordinance was passed on March 9, 2010 by City Council.

#### INTENT

The intent is to promote traffic safety by reducing driver distractions while using a cell phone.

#### WHEN CAN YOU USE YOUR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE

- While stopped AND off of the roadway.
- When the device is a part of the vehicle or affixed to the vehicle.
- All wireless communication devices must be used solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode SAFELY while operating on a public roadway at all times.



Mayor  
John F. Cook

City Council

*District 1*  
Ann Morgan Lilly

*District 2*  
Susannah M. Byrd

*District 3*  
Emma Acosta

*District 4*  
Carl L. Robinson

*District 5*  
Rachel Quintana

*District 6*  
Eddie Holguin Jr.

*District 7*  
Steve Ortega

*District 8*  
Beto O'Rourke

City Manager  
Joyce A. Wilson

Chief of Police  
Gregory K. Allen

### **CANNOT USE A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICE**

- Even the temporary or brief use of a hand-held wireless communication device is generally unacceptable and can result in a citation.
- The use of a hands-free device can still result in a citation if it is used in an unsafe manner which results in driver distraction or unsafe vehicle operation.

### **IN AN EMERGENCY YOU CAN USE YOUR DEVICE**

- Request emergency assistance to report a traffic accident, medical emergency, or serious traffic hazard, or to prevent a crime about to be committed or other life threatening event or danger.

### **QUICK REVIEW**

- If you hold your cell phone while driving OR use a hands-free device in an unsafe manner you may receive a citation under this ordinance.

Any follow up questions or concerns should be directed to the El Paso Police Department Public Affairs Office. Detective Mike Baranyay may be reached at 915-564-7322 and Darrel Petry may be contacted at 915-564-7307.

###

