VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 03

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING HANDS-FREE CELL AND HANDHELD DEVICE USE WHILE DRIVING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

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

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, Estero, Florida, has witnessed an increase in traffic crashes attributed to distracted driving, affecting the safety of men, women, and children who reside in and visit the county; and

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

WHEREAS, 31 states have successfully enacted hands-free laws, resulting in a measurable decrease in crashes and fatalities 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 Village Council of the Village of Estero, Florida as follows:

Section 1. The Village Council of Estero, Florida, that this Board hereby expresses its strong support for legislation mandating the use of hands-free devices while driving.

Section 2. That the Board urges the Florida State Legislature to pass such legislation to enhance road safety and protect lives.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Florida, the Florida State Legislature, and relevant advocacy groups to demonstrate our commitment to reducing distracted driving and improving the safety of our roadways.

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL of the Village of Estero, Florida this 5th day of March, 2025.

Attest:

By: _____
Carol Sacco, Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

By: _____
Joanne Ribble, Mayor