**2018 ANTI-DISTRACTED DRIVING**

**ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN**

**SAMPLE PROCLAMATION**

**Put Your Phone Away or Get Ready to Pay.**

**Distracted Drivers Beware with *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.***

Distracted driving has become one of the most common causes of vehicle crashes on America’s roads. Sadly, 3,450 people were killed nationally in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2016, with **[Insert # from city/state]**.

Texting while driving has become especially problematic among millennials. According to NHTSA, young drivers 16 to 24 years old have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers since 2007. It is crucial that we take action to ensure the safety of millions of drivers on America’s roadways, and in our own communities.

In 47 States, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, texting while driving is an illegal, ticketable offense. In 2016, nearly one-tenth of all fatal crashes were reported as distraction-related. In fact, 9 percent of drivers 15 to 19 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were reported as being distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest percentage of drivers who were distracted at the time of a fatal crash. Many of these deaths could have been prevented if drivers had been focused on the road instead of on an electronic device. By continuing to speak about the dangers of distracted driving, we can work toward eliminating these preventable deaths and injuries.

That is why **[insert city/state]** is committed to educating drivers on the dangers of distracted driving. From April 12 to 16, 2018, as part of the *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* high-visibility enforcement effort, officers will be on high alert to catch distracted drivers and enforce distracted-driving laws. During this time, and every time you get behind the wheel, think about the consequences that distracted driving has on our community.

Now, therefore, I, **[insert official's name and title]**, do hereby proclaim April 12 to 16, 2018, part of the national high-visibility enforcement *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign in **[insert jurisdiction]**. I urge everyone to help reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life by focusing on your #1 task while behind the wheel – driving. Remember: *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.*