



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. IX.C.  
8/18/2015

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Public hearing regarding Ordinance relating to Motor Vehicles and Traffic and Municipal Courts, amending Chapter 32 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2010, Section 32-1, Definitions, and creating Section 32-8, Texting While Driving, and amending Chapter 33 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2010, Section 33-63, Schedule of Fines for Traffic, Animal, and Criminal Offenses.

**Background** A new State law to prohibit anyone from composing, sending or reading an electronic text message while a vehicle is in motion becomes effective November 1, 2015. The new law allows municipalities to enact ordinances and enforce the prohibition against texting while driving, provided the municipal ordinances are the same as the State law and that the penalty must be the same as State law. This ordinance therefore, parallels the new State law and would allow police to enforce illegal texting through the Municipal Court. The ordinance will penalize texting while driving within The City of Oklahoma City unless one of the ordinance's exceptions applies. Persons convicted under this ordinance shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100.00.

**Previous Action** The Traffic and Transportation Commission reviewed the draft ordinance at their July 22, 2015 meeting and voted to forward a recommendation to the City Council for its adoption. (meeting action item attached)

**Review** Police Department

**Recommendation:** Public hearing be held.

**Attachment**