

For Immediate Release – April 28, 2006

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Clinton Township's Distracted Driving Ordinance takes effect on Monday, May 1

(Clinton Township, Mich.) – Persons driving in Clinton Township on its more than 200 miles of roads will have an additional potential fine to face if they are ticketed by police for a moving violation and it is determined that they were distracted while driving.

Citing research that shows activities like eating, reading, using a cell phone, tending to personal hygiene, physically attending to a passenger or a pet, viewing a computer or video display, and many other distractions, as being the cause of accidents, township Supervisor Robert Cannon introduced the adoption of an ordinance in March. The Township Board unanimously voted in favor of the Distracted Driving Ordinance and took it a step further, sending a resolution to state leaders asking that a state-wide legislative effort be made “to reduce the instances of traffic accidents and fatalities on our roadways that are directly related to distracted driving”.

"With the resolution that we passed and the new ordinance which takes effect May 1 in Clinton Township, the Board showed its wisdom in attempting to curb activity that should not be taking place while people are driving," says Supervisor Cannon. "All this research bears out that we did the right thing."

Following introduction of the ordinance, which states that the operation of motor vehicles requires the full attention of the operator at all times and that “a person commits Distracted Driving if, while operating a motor vehicle, that person commits a moving violation while dividing his or her attention from the safe operation of the vehicle by some action of the operator within the vehicle”, the ordinance was published and goes into effect as of 30 days of publication, which is Monday, May 1, 2006.

The Distracted Driving Ordinance states the following the penalty if a person is found to have committed the civil infraction: “the person may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than five-hundred (\$500) dollars”.

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