



RAPID CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Prepare, Prevent, Protect



To: Mayor Sam Kooiker and members of City Council

From: Fire Chief Mike Maltaverne

Subject: Support for Ordinance #5988 to Prohibit the Use of Handheld Electronic Wireless Communication Devices While Driving in the City of Rapid City

Date: April 10, 2014

Please accept this memo in support of Ordinance #5988 as it is considered. The Rapid City Fire Department expends a great deal of resources every year in its response to emergencies throughout Rapid City. In addition to responding to emergencies, we focus resources on risk reduction projects and programs as it is proven that prevention is a better utilization of resources and has a greater benefit to the community if risk can be mitigated before it occurs. Having a safe community to live, work and play in creates a better quality of life for our citizens.

As cited by the Rapid City Police Department, in a memo linked to Ord. #5988, it is proven that drivers are at higher risk when using a handheld electronic communications device while operating a motor vehicle. The Rapid City Fire Department would ask that this ordinance be adopted by the City Council to ultimately reduce the possibility of injury and loss of life in Rapid City.