

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 137

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY FOR THE 2015 DISTRACTED DRIVING CRACKDOWN, U DRIVE, U TEXT, U PAY GRANT.

WHEREAS, Distracted Driving Crackdown, U Drive, U Text, U Pay grant monies are available through the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety for overtime enforcement related to special enforcement patrols targeting distracted drivers, which would remind New Jersey motorists of the state's distracted driving laws, raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and to reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is considered to be in the best interest of the City of Vineland that an application be submitted by the Vineland Police Department in the amount of \$5,000.00 for said monies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Vineland that the Application for the Distracted Driving Crackdown, U Drive, U Text, U Pay grant and such other documents as required be and the same are hereby authorized for execution by the mayor, Financial Director and Project Director.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

I agree to the Terms and Conditions found below.

Problem Statement:

Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2012 alone, 3,328 people were killed in distracted driving crashes. An estimated 421,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver. This was a nine percent increase from the estimated 387,000 people injured in 2011.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These distractions include:

Texting

Using a cell phone or smartphone

Eating and drinking

Talking to passengers

Grooming

Reading, including maps

Using a navigation system

Watching a video

Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

But, because using a hand held cell phone while driving or sending text messages requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, they are by far the most alarming distraction.

April is National Distracted Driver Month, which is a time to remind New Jersey motorists of the state's distracted driving laws, which include a ban on hand-held cell phone use and text messaging by all drivers and a ban on all cell phone use (hand held or hands free) by novice drivers.

From April 1-21, 2015, police officers, on an overtime basis, will conduct special enforcement patrols targeting distracted drivers. The patrols will consist of roving patrols and fixed checkpoints.

Objectives:

To reduce the number of motor vehicle fatalities in the state with a distracted driver contributing cause by five percent from the 2010-2012 calendar base year average through targeted distracted driving enforcement and education during the 2015 Distracted Driving Crackdown. *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.*

Methodology:

REMINDER: As per directives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (which provides the federal funding for this grant) Chiefs of Police are **not** eligible to work grant-funded overtime through this grant.****

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

This federally-funded grant project consists of an enforcement overtime campaign from April 1 through April 21, 2015. The project is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving, to offer deterrence through visible enforcement, and to issue summonses for relevant motor vehicle violations. The grant will pay for 100 hours of overtime enforcement during the crackdown period, with a maximum rate to be reimbursed of \$50 per hour. The 100 overtime hours will be used for roving patrols and checkpoints.

This is a **reimbursement grant**. Participating departments will incur all costs and then submit the necessary documentation to the Division of Highway Traffic Safety for reimbursement.

This is an **enforcement campaign**. A reasonable number of distracted driving related summonses are expected in relation to overtime hours worked.

The maximum project overtime rate is \$50.00 per hour regardless of what officer works the project hours. The officer is to receive the full dollar amount in overtime. Administrative costs or fees should be considered "in kind services" or soft matches and are not a part of this grant. **It is up to the agency to establish its pay rate for the project.** The Division encourages agencies to pay all participating officers a flat \$50 per hour rate for this overtime detail, but agencies may pay their usual overtime rates, if they wish, in which case the reimbursement from the Division will be:

Officers paid \$50.00 - project will reimburse at \$50.00 per hour
Officers paid less than \$50.00 - project will reimburse at that lower rate
Officers paid more than \$50.00 - project will reimburse at \$50.00 per hour with the municipality covering the remainder of the rate

Again, the maximum hourly rate to be reimbursed is \$50 per hour, regardless of whether all the grant-budgeted hours are worked or not.