

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**Wednesday, March 28, 2012 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers, 140 West Pine Street, Missoula, Montana**

**Members Present:** Dave Strohmaier, Adam Hertz, Jon Wilkins, Caitlin Copple, Dick Haines

**Members Not Present:** Bob Jaffe, Cynthia Wolken

**Other Present:** Jim Nugent, Ed Childers, Alex Taft, Mike O'Herron, John Baker

## **I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

1. Approve minutes from [March 21, 2012](#). Minutes approved unanimously.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Discuss revisiting cell phone restrictions. ([memo](#)) – Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier)  
(Referred to committee: 10/17/11) (**HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

Dave Strohmaier discussed the background of the proposed cell phone restrictions.

Adam Hertz stated that he is opposed to revisiting cell phone restrictions. He cited the difficulty of enforcement.

Caitlin Copple supports revisiting cell phone restrictions. She would like to review information from other communities in Montana that have enacted laws prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

Dick Haines expressed concern for the potential impact of a cell phone ban on the business community. He recognized the hazards of using a cell phone while driving. He also expressed concern about the impact on visitors to Missoula who are unaware of the law. He supports further discussion of this issue.

Mike O'Herron indicated his support for further discussion on this issue. He would like to see more data.

Jon Wilkins described some personal experiences with traffic hazards caused by drivers distracted with their cell phones. He expressed concern for the potential impact of a cell phone ban on the business community. He indicated support for a 'hands-free' option. He supports further discussion of this issue.

Dave Strohmaier would like to review data from other Montana communities that have enacted laws prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

John Baker articulated his opposition to enacting a law prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. He cited public opposition to the proposal. He feels that existing laws can be used to combat distracted driving.

Ed Childers indicated his support for further discussion on this issue.

Alex Taft indicated his support for further discussion on this issue.

Jim Nugent suggested discussing the issue with the Helena Police Chief since Helena has already enacted a law prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

## **IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM**

## **V. HELD AND ON-GOING AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Police Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Mark Muir)
2. Fire Department Update – Ongoing in Committee (Jason Diehl)
3. Health Department Update – Ongoing in Committee. (Ellen Leahy)
4. Eat Smart Coalition information. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener) (Referred to committee: 07/11/11)
5. Discuss air quality issues related to railroad operations in and through Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dave Strohmaier) (Referred to committee: 10/24/11)
6. Authorize Discussion with Crime Victim Advocate Office. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Jon Wilkins) (Referred to committee: 02/06/12)
7. (Joint Meeting with Conservation) Safety aspects of management of the urban deer population in the City of Missoula. ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Dick Haines and Jon Wilkins) (Referred to committee: 03/26/2012)

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M. Submitted by Gregg Schonbachler.