

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY
"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION
"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN
GOVERNMENT
"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL
STEWARDSHIP
"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING
"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

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Media Contact: Robert B. Thomas, Jr. at 410-638-3258 or 443-617-1954

Harford County Restricts the Use of Wireless Communication Devices in County Vehicles *Revised policy affects both county and personal vehicles*

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County Executive David R. Craig has announced the establishment of a policy affecting the use of wireless communication devices while driving. The policy restricts the use of cell phones and other wireless communication devices to those with a hands free headset to transmit or receive calls.

"Distractions to drivers, including the use of cell phones and wireless communication devices are a major cause of motor vehicle accidents," remarked County Executive Craig. "Our goal is to reduce the potential for such accidents by restricting the use of these devices by county personnel who operate county vehicles or their personal vehicle while on county business," stated the county executive.

As of October 1, 2009, it is a violation of Maryland State law to write or send a text message while driving. Additionally, in an effort to reduce the risk of property damage and personal injury by Harford County employees, the new county policy also prohibits the use of cell phones or other wireless communication devices while driving. When using a wireless communication device without a hands-free headset, the operator of the vehicle must move out of traffic to the shoulder of the road, and stop the vehicle before transmitting or answering a call.

Furthermore, the policy prohibits the use of wireless communication devices when refueling county vehicles or equipment or in the vicinity of the fueling process.

"Safety is our goal and to that extent we believe this policy will enhance the safety of both of employees and citizens we serve by reducing the potential for accidents" stated County Executive Craig.

The wireless communication policy is one of several policies that have been developed or revised by Harford County Government recently under the direction of the Director of Administration to improve efficiency of Harford County Government operations.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"

