

Joe Sanchez

For City of Miami Mayor 2009

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CHAIRMAN JOE SANCHEZ FIGHTS FOR STATEWIDE BAN ON DRIVERS TEXTING IN SCHOOL ZONES

(Miami, FL)- Chairman Joe Sanchez vowed today to lead the charge toward a statewide legislation to ban drivers from texting in school zones.

The Miami City Commission today approved Sanchez's resolution strongly urging Governor Charlie Christ and the Florida Legislature to enact legislation during the 2010 legislative session prohibiting the act of texting while driving in a school zone.

"This is about protecting our children," Sanchez said. "While dropping my children off at school, I saw a driver so distracted by text messaging that he almost ran over a small child crossing the street to school."

Within minutes of the Commission adopting the texting ban resolution, Sanchez emailed the Legislation to the Governor, Dade Delegation of the Legislature.

The resolution also directs the City Manger to implement a policy which bans City employees from texting while driving a City vehicle.

"People know they have to slow down in school zones, but instead of taking the time to be alert of children in the crosswalk, they take advantage of the slower speed to check and send text messages. That's a recipe for disaster." Sanchez said.

Eighteen states and Washington, D.C., have passed laws making texting while driving illegal. Some U.S. Senators are looking into withholding federal highway dollars from states that do not ban texting or e-mailing while operating a moving vehicle.

"Driving while texting is a national epidemic of dangerous behavior," Sanchez said. "I will be in Tallahassee fighting for a texting while driving ban to protect our children."

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