



Proclamation

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2023

WHEREAS: More than 3,000 people are killed in distracted driving crashes in the U.S. each year, and the economic toll of all motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. exceeds \$400 billion annually; and

WHEREAS: Distracted driving not only includes texting from behind the wheel, but also extends to activities such as reaching for your phone, adjusting a radio, taking a photo, programming GPS, grooming, and eating – all of which can result in physical or cognitive distraction; and

WHEREAS: Gahanna residents and all Americans deserve to live in communities that promote safe driving behaviors and healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS: The Gahanna Division of Police responded to 539 crashes in 2022, with 146 of them, or approximately 27%, involving some level of operator distraction; and

WHEREAS: Preventing distracted driving injuries and deaths requires the cooperation of all levels of government, employers and the general public; and

WHEREAS: In an effort to combat distracted driving accidents in Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine recently signed into law new distracted driving legislation that designates the use of cellphones - to include merely holding the device – or other electronic devices while driving a primary offense for all drivers, and authorizes law enforcement to pull over a distracted driver upon witnessing a violation; and

WHEREAS: Sharon Montgomery has been a relentless advocate in generating awareness of the dangers of distracted driving and pursuing the adoption of effective legislation to address distracted driving through her service as a member of the Ohio Traffic Safety Council Distracted Driving Subcommittee, and her efforts to educate our community on the perils of distracted driving have had a positive and profound impact on the health and wellness of Gahanna residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, commend Gahanna resident Sharon Montgomery for her advocacy in bringing awareness to distracted driving, and strongly urge Gahanna citizens and businesses to practice safe driving behaviors and pledge to drive distraction-free, and do hereby proclaim the month of April 2023 as



DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 3rd day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three.



Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor