

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

Chair and Members of the Committee,

As Chiefs of Police across Prince George's County, we are here today to express our collective and unwavering support for legislation authorizing automated enforcement of distracted driving.

Every day, we see firsthand the consequences of distracted driving: avoidable crashes, severe injuries, and lost lives. Distracted driving is not just a problem—it is an epidemic. A countywide pilot program revealed a staggering **1,250 violations per day** across just four locations, with an alarming **30% of drivers** failing to give the road their full attention. These statistics are not just numbers; they represent real dangers to our communities, our families, and our officers.

Traditional enforcement for distraction is close to impossible — methods require significant time and manpower, often forcing officers to choose between enforcing traffic laws and responding to emergencies. Automated enforcement provides a solution that allows us to deter dangerous behavior while keeping officers focused on critical public safety duties.

When other types of automated enforcement were first introduced in our communities, many residents were skeptical, fearing privacy concerns and revenue motives. However, a once-dangerous intersection plagued by crashes saw immediate improvements—fewer drivers running stop signs, fewer speeding vehicles, and, most importantly, fewer crashes. Over time, former critics became strong advocates, seeing safer streets, protected pedestrians, and more secure businesses. Today, parents, seniors, and local shop owners support these measures, knowing they make our communities safer.

Automated enforcement is a proven tool for improving road safety, and we need a solution to end this key cause of pedestrian fatalities. We urge you to support this legislation and take a stand for safer roads, for fewer tragedies, and for a Prince George's County where every resident—whether driver, pedestrian, or cyclist—feels protected.

Thank you for your time and commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Anthony Ayers, Cottage City Police Department

Chief Linwood Alston, Mount Rainier Police Department

Chief Anthony Rease, Forest Heights Police Department

Chief Regis Bryant, Glenarden Police Department