

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am Lieutenant Daniel Unger of the Berwyn Heights Police Department, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of legislation authorizing automated enforcement of distracted driving in Prince George's County. This technology offers a practical solution to a persistent issue that endangers every member of our community.

Distracted driving is a crisis I see on our streets every day. It not only jeopardizes lives but also drains resources from law enforcement already stretched thin. Addressing this issue demands significant time and manpower—both of which are increasingly difficult to spare.

Recent data from a pilot study shows 100 distraction violations per day at just two locations in Berwyn Heights. This highlights the severity of this problem in our area and the urgent need for a more efficient enforcement strategy.

Automated enforcement, powered by modern privacy-preserving technology, offers a balanced solution. It enhances enforcement capabilities while maintaining public trust by safeguarding individual privacy. This approach allows us to prioritize safety without compromising the values we hold dear.

I urge you to support this critical legislation. With your backing, we can reduce accidents, save lives, and relieve the mounting strain on local law enforcement.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Daniel Unger

Berwyn Heights Police Department