

Urbana Police Department Memorandum

TO: Mayor Prussing, Urbana City Council **Date:** 8/12/09

FROM: Chief Michael F. Bily

RE: Mobile Communications Device Ordinance Report

Urbana City Ordinance 2008-03-023 requires that: From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 the City of Urbana Police Department shall track and report the use of mobile communication devices as a cause or contributor to any vehicular accidents that it is called to investigate, causing property damage, personal injury, or death, within its jurisdiction.

The Urbana Police Officers who investigated the accidents (on public roadways, streets, alleys or other public ways) during the study period made inquires of drivers and witnesses as to the use of a mobile communication device at the time of the accident. If it was determined that the use of a mobile communication device was the cause of the accident, that person was cited for the city ordinance violation.

Mobile Communication Device Ordinance Violations **Between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009**

#	Date	Accident #	Synopsis
1	8/24/08	U08-4873	Driver hit a parked car while attempting a three point turn while talking on her cell phone.
2	8/31/08	U08-5063	Driver was distracted by looking at a text message and hit the curb, damaging the tire on his vehicle. Single car accident.
3	10/3/08	U08-5746	Bicyclist was talking on his cell phone and made a left hand turn in front of a motorcycle. Both went to the ground. No injuries
4	11/4/08	U08-6471	Driver ran into the back of a vehicle stopped at a traffic control signal. Witness saw Driver texting prior to the accident.
5	12/21/08	U08-7349	Driver hit another driver in a 4 way stop intersection. Driver admitted to being on the phone.
6	1/27/09	U09-482	Driver ran into the back of the other car which was stopped at a stop sign. Driver was on the phone.
7	4/8/09	U09-2009	Driver exited a business and while pulling onto the roadway hit a vehicle that was properly travelling on the roadway. Driver admitted to being on the phone.
8	5/4/09	U09-2551	Driver ran a red light and struck a vehicle in the intersection. Witnesses indicated driver was on the phone while driver denied it.

There has been one additional accident since the study period concluded (June 30, 2009) which involved the use of a mobile communication device.

#	Date	Accident #	Synopsis
9		U09-4351	Driver ran a stop sign while talking on the phone and was hit by a vehicle that was legally moving through the intersection.

The accident rate in Urbana has remained relatively constant over the past 25 years, despite Urbana's increase in population and geographic size. The study period in the Mobile Communications Device Ordinance designated a fiscal year period rather than the below documented calendar year analysis. The number of accidents from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 was 1082.

Urbana Accident History

Year	Total Accidents
1985	1,242
1986	1205
1987	1,193
1988	1,168
1989	1,170
1990	1,207
1991	1,156
1992	1,126
1993	1,232
1994	1,279
1995	1,158
1996	1,196
1997	1,201
1998	1,098
1999	1,165
2000	1,111
2001	1,067
2002	1,214
2003	1,183
2004	1,183
2005	1,209
2006	1,054
2007	1,153
2008	1,072
2009 (thru 6/30/09)	529