

CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Dominick Rivetti

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MEDIA RELEASE

April 19, 2021

Beverly Hills Police Department Focuses on Distracted Driving Enforcement

Beverly Hills, *Calif.* – On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, the Beverly Hills Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers that are violating the state's hands-free cell phone law.

Under the law, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while driving. This includes talking, texting, or using an app.

"Distracted driving is a serious issue, but one that can be easily solved simply by putting the phone down," Beverly Hills Police Chief Dominick Rivetti said. "That text, phone call, email, or social media post can wait."

Beginning July 1, 2021, a violation for using a handheld cellular phone or texting while driving will result in a fine and also add a point to the driver's record for each violation occurring within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense.

Other distractions that increase the risk of a crash include eating, grooming, programming directions, adjusting the radio, taking off a jacket, reaching for an object on the floor, or navigating a vehicle's in-dash touchscreen.

If you have an important phone call or need to program directions, pull over to a safe parking spot. Before driving, either silence your phone or put it somewhere you can't reach.

Funding for this program is provided by a California Office of Traffic Safety grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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