



October 21, 2011

For Immediate Release  
Village Manager's Office

## **Cell Phone Ban**

On October 17, 2011 the Village Board adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of handheld wireless telephones and electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle within Village limits. Village of Deerfield officials believe that distracted driving is a serious problem and it is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare to prohibit the use of handheld wireless telephones and electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Effective November 1, 2011 any person found in violation of this ordinance may be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$500 for each offense. Drivers are still permitted to utilize electronic communication devices solely in a voice-activated or other hands-free mode that allows the driver to talk to and listen to the other party on the telephone without the use of the driver's hands. Drivers are permitted to use a wireless device for the purposes of contacting or communicating with public safety or other emergency service providers while driving a motor vehicle. Drivers are also exempt if utilizing an electronic device while lawfully parked on the shoulder of a roadway.

This ordinance is consistent with the Illinois Vehicle Code, which already prohibits the use of wireless telephones while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone, or on a highway in a construction speed zone. Additionally, the Illinois Vehicle Code prohibits the use of handheld electronic communication devices for the purposes of composing, reading or sending an electronic message while operating a motor vehicle. Many surrounding communities, including Chicago, Highland Park, Evanston, Glencoe and Winnetka have already passed similar cell phone bans.

-30-

Released by the Village Manager's Office  
Contact: Andrew S. Lichterman, Management Analyst  
847/945-5000