

DRAFT

Date:

As Chair of the Lancaster County Board, I have reviewed the proposed policy governing the use of County electronic devices. With an increased focus on technology in every aspect of business and access to so many electronic devices in the workplace, it is important that the County, as an employer, set strong guidelines for employees on the utilization of such devices while driving.

As a steward of Lancaster County it is my responsibility to ensure the safety of our employees, our residents and to protect the County from potential liability. Research has shown that using a cell phone while driving, even hands free, is an extremely dangerous practice and results in substantial risk of crashes, injuries and even fatalities. In December 2011, the NTSB recommended that all 50 states and the District of Columbia enact complete bans of all portable electronic devices for all drivers, including banning use of hands-free devices. Section 10 of the Electronic Devices Policy protects the County's interest in avoiding distracted driving to eliminate unnecessary risk to the employees, property, and citizens of Lancaster County.

I understand and recognize the necessity of exempting personnel from the Lancaster County Sheriff's office, however, I am not supportive of extending the exception in Section 10 to any other County employees. Unlike other County personnel, the County Sheriff personnel's position specifically requires the use of various electronic devices while driving, and they are trained to deal with emergent situations involving multiple distractions. Other County departments do not have this training and present a significant risk to the County when utilizing electronic devices while driving.

I encourage the Personnel Policy Board to accept the proposed policy governing the use of County electronic devices as I believe it is a necessary policy to have in place and a critical component of protecting the best interest of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,

Todd Wiltgen, Chair
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners