



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



Public Affairs Specialist Jessica King

410.520.5395: News Media Information
410.723.6610: General Police Information
443.235.4420: Public Affairs Cell Phone

Public Affairs Officer Michael Levy

410.723.6665: News Media Information
410.723.6610: General Police Information
443.235.4446: Public Affairs Cell Phone

For Immediate Release:

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING ILLEGAL IN MARYLAND AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2009

The Ocean City Police Department is advising citizens that beginning October 1, 2009, text messaging while operating a motor vehicle is prohibited and against the law in Maryland.

Under the new Maryland law any person operating a motor vehicle who engages in writing, sending a text message while operating a motor vehicle or in the travel portion of the roadway can be cited. If you are convicted of a misdemeanor of the new text messaging law you will receive a fine of up to \$500. *The new laws do not apply to emergency situations (Texting 9-1-1) or global positioning system.*

The OCPD believes that drivers should minimize all distractions while operating a motor vehicle. A driver should concentrate on the safe operation of the vehicle they are driving and pay close attention to the road. Chief Bernadette A. DiPino states "Ocean City is subject to a significant amount of pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic. The OCPD supports this important public safety regulation and will strictly enforce this law."

September 28, 2009

Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococan.com

For additional public safety information, go to the Official OCPD Blog at: <http://ocpdminfo.blogspot.com> or view real-time public safety advisories on "Twitter" by searching OCPDMDInfo.