

ORIGINAL
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RESOLUTION NO.: R-2014-038

Supporting S. 137 "Emma's Law"

WHEREAS, drunk driving was responsible for 10,322 deaths and approximately 345,000 injuries in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Drunk driving fatalities involving a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .08 or higher represent 41% of all total traffic deaths in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reports that 120,000 persons or 22.3% of individuals aged 12 to 20 years old report using alcohol in the past month; and

WHEREAS, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) reports that 72,000 persons or 13.3% of individuals aged 12 to 20 years old report binge drinking in the past month; and

WHEREAS, recent studies suggest that a single alcohol-related fatality in South Carolina can cost \$4.9 million; and

WHEREAS; Emma Longstreet of Lexington, SC was only 6 years-old when she died on January 1, 2012, killed in a collision with a drunk driver while she and her family were on their way to church services at Northside Baptist Church in Lexington; and

WHEREAS; the individual driving the car that hit Emma and her family later pled guilty to two felony Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges and was sentenced to nine months in prison; and

WHEREAS; Emma's father, David Longstreet, has made strengthening South Carolina's DUI laws his personal mission since his daughter's death; and

WHEREAS; the City of Columbia continues to mourn 3 year-old Josiah Caden Jenkins, grandnephew of Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins, who died on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, four days after a collision on North Springs Road that also injured his mother; and

WHEREAS; the individual driving the automobile that collided with the automobile operated by Josiah's mother has been charged with felony DUI resulting in death, driving under suspension and a seat belt violation in connection with that collision; and

WHEREAS; the individual driving the automobile that collided with the automobile operated by Josiah's mother was out on bond awaiting trial on an additional DUI charge filed in November 2013 at the time of that collision and has a history of DUI convictions dating back to 1993; and

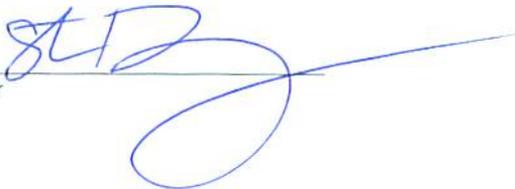
WHEREAS, S. 137, also known as "Emma's Law," requires the use of Ignition Interlock Devices for all repeat offenders and first time offenders with a blood alcohol concentration of .12 or greater; and

WHEREAS, An Ignition Interlock Device (IID) is a mechanism, like a breathalyzer, installed in a vehicle to prevent an individual from starting his or her car if her or she has been drinking alcohol; and

BE IT RESOLVED this 18th day of March, 2014 by voice resolution and a motion to enact made by Councilmember Devine and seconded by Councilmember Runyan, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia voted unanimously to proudly support Mr. Longstreet and "Emma's Law" and encourage all of our fellow citizens to do the same.

Requested by:

Councilmember Devine


Mayor

Approved by:


City Manager

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Introduced: 3/18/2014

Final Reading: 3/18/2014