



ann arbor area
chamber of commerce
together we profit

**Position Statement: Opposition to Proposed City Cell Phone Ban
Tuesday, March 23, 2010**

The Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, like the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors, is opposed to the City of Ann Arbor's proposed cell phone ban (or more precisely, the proposed ban on portable electronic device use/operation while driving/biking).

A ban such as this is most appropriately addressed at the state level where it can and will receive proper airing. It should not be enacted piecemeal in varying, confusing and divergent ways depending upon ones local jurisdictional whereabouts. Statewide imposition aims to ensure uniformity in both awareness and enforcement.

Legislation similar to this is in fact pending at the state level. Present indications are that it may preempt local level ordinances, which calls into question the resource expenditure associated with Ann Arbor's proposed ordinance.

Absent state legislation Ann Arbor's proposed ordinance is unfriendly and unwelcoming to our area's many visitors, tourists and business travelers who will unwittingly commit civil infractions. Our area's guests should not be penalized for such unknowing misconduct.

It is our belief that a locally enacted measure of this sort will thwart efforts to grow business, as well as associated job creation, by creating an unfriendly business environment. For this reason, and others, we are opposed to the proposed ordinance. Actively lobbying our Washtenaw County state legislators to effect change is a more appropriate route if change is desired.

The mission of the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce is to support our members by promoting commerce in the greater Ann Arbor area through business advocacy and leadership in economic, political and educational development.