WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines “distracted driving” as any non-driving activity a person engages in while operating a motor vehicle. Such distractions endanger drivers, passengers, and bystanders’ safety; and

WHEREAS, some types of driver distraction include texting, using a cell phone or smartphone, eating and drinking, and talking to passengers; but, because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most risky and alarming of distractions; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of all near-crashes can be attributed to some form of driver distraction; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 1.6 million crashes per year can be attributed to cell phone talking and texting while driving; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving is a serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce the number of crashes as well as improve driver safety, all motorists should dedicate themselves to adopting and maintaining safe behavior while behind the wheel; and

WHEREAS, young, inexperienced drivers, under 20 years old, have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes. Their lack of driving experience can contribute to critical misjudgments if they become distracted; yet they text more than any other age group.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Calabasas does hereby proclaim APRIL 2013 AS Distracted Driving Awareness Month in the City of Calabasas and calls this observance to the attention of all residents and encourages increased awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

April 10, 2013

Mayor Fred Gaines

Councilmember Mary Sue Maurer  
Councilmember James Bozajian

Councilmember Lucy Martin  
Councilmember David Shapiro