

## FIFTH MIDDLESEX DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**DAVID P. LINSKY**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Massachusetts House Passes Distracted Driving Legislation**

This month, I joined my colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in passing legislation to ban drivers from using hand-held devices in vehicles unless they are in hands-free mode.

H.3793, *An Act requiring the hands-free use of mobile telephones while driving*, defines hands-free devices as those that engage in voice communication with and receiving audio without touching, holding, or otherwise manually manipulating the device. The legislation allows for drivers to use mapping or navigation devices if they are affixed to the windshield or integrated into the vehicle, and only involve a tap or swipe. It also allows for a single tap or swipe to activate or deactivate a device's hands free mode.

Law enforcement officials have the ability to issue warnings to drivers on their first offense until December 31, 2019, in what is being deemed a "public education" period, before the law goes into effect on January 1, 2020. The legislation imposes a \$100 fine for the first offense, a \$250 fine for the second offense, and a \$500 fine for a third and subsequent offenses.

This legislation will ensure that drivers keep their eyes on the road, and not on their cell phone. Distracted driving causes many dangerous and fatal car accidents, and passing this legislation is a long-overdue step to ensure the safety of all residents of the Commonwealth.

In addition, H.3793 builds off and bolsters existing law by directing the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to add a section on traffic tickets to record the race of each individual cited or issued a written warning by a police officer. Each year, the state will be required to collect and analyze the data, and report its finding to lawmakers, the Attorney General, and other relevant parties. If the data suggests that a State Police barracks or a local police department appears to have engaged in racial or gender profiling, that department would be subject to a year-long information collection period, wherein they would be required to collect information on all traffic stops, including those that do not end in a warning, citation, or arrest.

The House also adopted an amendment filed by Representative Chynah Tyler (D-Boston) that directs state public safety officials to investigate alternative methods for collection under a 2000 law that requires citations for traffic violations to include a box that asks the recording officer to fill in race. The amendment requires officials to explore the expansion of data collection to include race and gender of each individual subject to traffic stops, searches resulting from a traffic stop, or frisks resulting from a traffic stop, whether or not a Massachusetts Uniform Citation was issued.

There is no doubt that we face a serious social and racial justice issue relative to the ways in which the police interact with the public, and we should call for a wider discussion of the matter.

H.3793 was passed by the House 155-2, and not goes to the Massachusetts State Senate for consideration.

**Want to receive my monthly newsletter via email? Email [David.Linsky@mahouse.gov](mailto:David.Linsky@mahouse.gov) to sign up!**

## Gun Violence Prevention Advocates Attend Natick DTC Meeting

I was joined by my friend -and tireless gun violence prevention advocate - Angus McQuilken, as well as advocates and volunteers from Mom's Demand Action, at a meeting of the Natick Democratic Town Committee (DTC) to discuss gun violence prevention.

It is because of the continued hard work of these dedicated individuals that we are able to ensure that Massachusetts remains the safest state in the nation when it comes to gun violence prevention.



## Memorial Day in the Fifth Middlesex District

Each Memorial Day, it is my honor to be a part of the events in the Fifth Middlesex District honoring the men and women who gave their lives serving our country.

These brave Americans made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our country and ensure our freedom and security. This Memorial Day - and every day - we must thank them and honor them for their sacrifice.



### Follow Rep. Linsky Online!

Did you know that Representative Linsky is active on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram? Hear the latest news from Beacon Hill and in the district, see photos of recent events, and engage with other constituents by connecting on our social media platforms.



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### "Get It Done" Pledge

One of the best aspects of being a State Representative is helping my constituents in times of need. I am honored to act as a liaison between my constituents and state agencies.

If you require assistance or need additional information, do not hesitate to call me at **617-722-2575** or email me at **David.Linsky@mahouse.gov**. I encourage you to contact my office to speak with myself or a member of my staff regarding an issue that is of concern to you.