

## PROCLAMATION

Whereas, public safety, including the reduction of fatalities and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents, are goals shared by the City of Sweetwater, the State of Texas; and

Whereas, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI) estimate that nearly eighty percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involve some form of driver inattention; and

Whereas, NHTSA and VTTI estimate that driver distraction is a factor in approximately 4.78 million crashes, resulting in two million injuries, more than 34,000 fatalities, and as much as \$184 billion in economic damages annually; and

Whereas, a university study found that college students face a crash risk eight times greater when texting than when not texting; and

Whereas, VTTI found that truck drivers face a crash risk or near-crash risk 23 times greater when texting than when not texting; and

Whereas, the American Media Association called text messaging while driving “a public health risk,” citing a study that found text messaging while driving causes a 400 percent increase in time spent with eyes off the road; and

Whereas, AT&T, has launched a campaign to raise public awareness about the risks of texting and driving and remind all wireless consumers, especially youth, that text messages can – and should – wait until after driving; and

Whereas, the “Texting & Driving-It Can Wait” program can literally save lives throughout our City, State and Country.

Now, therefore, I, Gregory Wortham, Mayor of the City of Sweetwater, do hereby declare September 19, 2012, “**Texting & Driving – It Can Wait Day**” and encourage all citizens to commit to refraining from texting while driving and to join me in commending the sponsors.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sweetwater to be affixed this 21st day of August, 2012.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory L. Wortham".

Gregory L. Wortham, Mayor