

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, driver education and training are prerequisites to obtaining a driver's license before the age of 18 in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, public schools in North Carolina have provided driver education since 1927 when the General Assembly first required instruction in traffic safety and the General Assembly has provided funding for driver education since 1957; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, North Carolina implemented the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program designed to phase beginning drivers to full driving privileges using education and training; and despite an increase of nearly 500,000 new drivers, the number of teen fatalities began to decline following the first year of GDL law. A report by the University of North Carolina's Highway Safety Research Institute credited the GDL law with a 34 percent decline in crashes involving 16-year-olds and the GDL law is credited with having an even greater effect on nighttime crashes, reducing late-night crashes for 16-year-olds by 47 percent; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has stated that as of July 1, 2015, the Driver Education Program administered by the Department of Public Instruction shall no longer be paid out of the Highway Fund based on an annual appropriation by the General Assembly, but that local boards of education shall fund driver education courses from funds available to them; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing statement from the General Assembly indicates that there will be non-recurring state funding of driver education which could lead to an increased fee structure for prospective teen drivers that would likely make driver education unaffordable for many students; and

WHEREAS, students unable to afford driver education will likely be forced to wait until age 18 to obtain a driver's license and will miss the educational benefits of the graduated licensing process; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden recognizes the value of safety provided through professional training to all drivers and passengers who use the transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Eden believes that driver education and training should be available and affordable for all students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council for the City of Eden:

1. That the City Council does hereby support driver education, specifically the Graduated Driving Licensing Program currently in place in the State of North Carolina and currently funded by the Department of Public Instruction.

2. That the City Council does hereby support and recognize the value of driver education and training and benefits to all citizens on the public highways and byways of our State.

3. That this Resolution shall be sent to the local delegates to the General Assembly to urge the General Assembly to take action to restore the annual appropriation of the Driver Education Program to the 2015-2016 fiscal year Budget.

APPROVED, ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 20th day of January, 2015.

CITY OF EDEN

By: _____
Wayne R. Tuggle, Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheralene Thompson, City Clerk