

Matthew Moritz  
Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition  
PO Box 2454  
Providence, RI 02906

February 11, 2014

Attorney General Peter Kilmartin  
Office of the Attorney General  
150 Main St  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Attorney General Kilmartin:

The Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition, which has an obvious interest and concern about roadway safety, is requesting that your office investigate procedures after a motor accident results in a death. There were recent fatalities of pedestrians in Newport and a bicyclist in South Kingstown where motorists apparently did not see the victim. We believe that in these cases legitimate concerns exist of whether or not the drivers were distracted due to use of a cellular telephone.

As one means of dealing with this in future instances, we are asking that consideration be given to routinely determining any possible cell phone use at the time of a crash involving injuries to a person.

This consideration might include the possible need for legislation to accomplish this, which we would support.

We know of your interest in highway safety and your sponsorship of legislation to ban texting while driving, and thank you for your leadership. Determining whether or not that is a factor in highway deaths is a possible next step in combating this dangerous practice, as many drivers are still observed reading and sending messages while operating their vehicle. While especially dangerous for bicyclists, it puts all roadway users at risk.

Thank you for attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Moritz  
Board President, Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition