

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY TO
SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH INDIANA DRIVING CARDS

WHEREAS, the elected officials of the City of Columbia City, Indiana, believe that all residents of the City of Columbia City, Indiana deserve safe roads to travel upon; and

WHEREAS, currently, a person who cannot prove lawful status in the United States is unable to obtain an operator's license in the State of Indiana, and as a result, unable to purchase car insurance; and

WHEREAS, unlicensed drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents than validly licensed drivers; and

WHEREAS, licensed drivers must pay higher premiums for accidents and injuries caused by unlicensed drivers; and

WHEREAS, Driving Card legislation in the State of Indiana would require every driver on Indiana's roads be trained, certified, insured, and identifiable to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would improve public safety, requiring all individuals with driving cards to pass a written test, a vision test, and a driving test; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of organizations have formally endorsed the Indiana Driving Card legislation including the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, the Insurance Institute of Indiana, and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, eighteen states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have enacted laws to allow unauthorized immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, a Driving Card would provide an easily recognizable and distinguishable identification that will not be valid for voter identification; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes it is important that all Indiana drivers on our roads be trained, certified, and insured, acknowledging the importance of safe roads for its residents through the reduction of hit and runs and the increase of insured motorists on our roads; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council would support Driving Card legislation if such legislation also includes requirements that Driving Card applicants apply for citizenship within one year of Driving Card application and show a good faith effort in such citizenship application at the time of renewals of their Driving Card and that there be no exceptions to a Driving Card holder maintaining proper motorist insurance as required under Indiana law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. The Common Council hereby urges introduction and passage of responsible Driving Card legislation which requires training, certification, citizenship application and insurance; and

Section 2. Urges residents of the City of Columbia City to support the passage of such legislation by making their opinions known to their state legislators in the upcoming General Assembly.

RESOLVED this 25 day of July, 2023.

COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY, INDIANA, BY:

NO

Daniel Weigold

Theodore J. Varga, Jr.

Walter Crowder
Walter C. Crowder

Jennifer B. Zartman-Romano
Jennifer B. Zartman-Romano

Jennifer Middleton
Jennifer Middleton

Attest:

Rosie Coyle
Rosie Coyle, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved this 25 day of July, 2023.

Ryan L. Daniel
Ryan L. Daniel, Mayor
City of Columbia City