

George Chavez
City Manager



July 8, 2021

The Honorable Vince Fong
Assemblyman 34th District
State Capitol, Room 2002
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 3 (Fong) Exhibition of speed on a highway: punishment
City of Beverly Hills – Support**

Dear Assembly Member Fong:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to indicate our **SUPPORT** for **AB 3**, your measure to permit a court to suspend a person's driver's license for a period of 90 days to six months if they are convicted of engaging in, or aiding and abetting, a motor vehicle exhibition of speed. **AB 3** would also allow a court to restrict a person's driving privilege during the suspension period to trips to and from work and to driving deemed a necessary part of that person's job.

During the COVID 19 pandemic lockdown, cities have experienced an increase in street racing and so called 'sideshows,' in part because there have been fewer vehicles on the road. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) responded to 25,953 calls involving a motor vehicle speed contest or exhibition of speed in 2020, nearly 3,500 more calls than the prior year. In 2020, CHP cited 341 individuals with a violation of motor vehicle exhibition of speed, 141 more than the year before.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA), most fatal crashes are directly linked to this type of risky driving. While "motor vehicle exhibition of speed" is prohibited, violations do not result in the same penalties as those engaging in a speed contest. Under this bill, the courts may suspend an individual's driver's license for 90 days to six months. This punishment is in line with the punishment for participating in a motor vehicle speed contest, which involves at least two drivers racing each other.

On October 1, 2020, the California Highway Patrol launched the Communities Against Racing and Side Shows campaign. This campaign focuses on statewide public awareness campaigns on speed-related crashes and focused enforcement. As illegal street racing becomes a more prevalent problem statewide, the NHTSA has reported that this dangerous activity is often associated with

other risky behavior including driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and driving without a seatbelt.

In Beverly Hills, we experience numerous "street take-over" events a year where vehicles and spectator gather to participate in exhibition of speed contests or other side show events. Due to the number of events that occur in Beverly Hills, and the limitations in place for enforcement under the vehicle code, the City adopted an ordinance in 2019 to issue administrative citations to spectators at these events in order to hopefully prevent unnecessary injuries at these events should drivers lose control of these vehicles.

Illegal street races are happening more frequently around the state and have led to serious injuries and in some cases loss of life. **AB 3** provides law enforcement an additional tool to deter individuals from engaging in all forms and activities related to illegal street racing, which is needed to help prevent the loss of life or serious injuries.

For these reasons, we **Support AB 3**.

Sincerely,



George Chavez
City Manager,
City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Public Safety Committee
Members and Consultants, Senate Transportation Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange