



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville**  
**HB 601 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement,**  
**and Penalties**  
**SUPPORT**

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Korman for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 601.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 601. Increasingly, car meetups are causing public safety threats and noise disruptions in Maryland communities. Car meetups involve large numbers of motorists engaging in dangerous driving on public and private roads near crowds of people. This activity poses a serious risk of injury to those who walk, bike, drive, and heightens the potential for property damage. Recent car meetups that have occurred in Montgomery County include Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and the City of Rockville. Due to the high volume of cars and people, Police are unable to chase the vehicles. Law enforcement is limited to trying to disperse the vehicles and crowds. Current law is insufficient to address this dangerous activity, as most offenders can only be charged with traffic violations.

We support HB 601 for the following reasons:

- This legislation provides the Police with new tools to address this increasing threat to public safety.
- The bill prohibits exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public.
- The legislation also alters certain penalties and points assessments for certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest.
- Individuals that are convicted of a violation that results in serious injury to another person is subject to a fine, prison time, or both.
- The bill expands authority for local governments to designate a highway under its jurisdiction as a special event zone to ensure public safety.

HB 601 is urgently needed legislation that provides law enforcement with the necessary authority to address this dangerous behavior and keep our communities safe. It is our understanding that HB 601 and its Senate crossfile, SB 442, have been amended to conform with one another. Rockville is supportive of the bill language as it currently stands. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 601 with a favorable report.