



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

KATE STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

February 12, 2024

HB 601 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties
Position: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, members of the E&T committee, I am writing in support of HB 601 to increase prohibitions and penalties on street racing and unpermitted, dangerous car rallies. Today I am writing as the Councilmember for District 4 and speaking for myself, and not on behalf of the entire Montgomery County Council. This legislation is much needed and even though the Council has voted to support this legislation, I am additionally writing as an individual to emphasize how severe the growing challenges from these events have been in our district.

In my district, coordinated meetups of cars engaged in racing, doing donuts, skidding, swerving, and revving engines in a loud, raucous, and disturbing manner has threatened the safety of residents and created an atmosphere diminishing the area's quality of life and economic activity, especially in Downtown Silver Spring.

While Montgomery County Police have successfully prevented multiple of these events organized online from occurring, these rallies can create unpredictable situations and impede emergency responses to the events due to the sheer volume of vehicles blocking our roadways. While recent rallies have primarily been on public roadways, this legislation also covers and discourages rallies that may occur on private property, such as in parking lots.

Advancing this legislation is of the utmost urgency, as we cannot allow one of these events to result in serious injury or death to participants or spectators. Response to these rallies also diverts needed public safety resources from other incidents in our community. Please act swiftly to address this dangerous set of incidents of deep concern to our residents, and residents throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Stewart".

Kate Stewart
Councilmember, District 4
Vice President, Montgomery County Council