



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

March 2, 2020

## Judicial Proceedings Committee

2 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### Re: Senate Bill 878 Worcester County – Special Event Zones – Prohibitions

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

First, I would like to thank the committee for allowing us to testify on behalf of House Bill 1494 which considers special event zone prohibitions. As a member of the City Council and a resident of Ocean City, I have seen the lawless behavior firsthand from multiple viewpoints. During these events, a large percentage of participants show little respect for our laws, our law enforcement officers and our community as a whole. They refer to Coastal Highway as “the strip” and treat our town as if it’s the set for *The Fast and the Furious*.

My residence is located on 48<sup>th</sup> street, otherwise known as “show center” for participations on “the strip.” From my balcony, I have repetitively witnessed the disrespect to our community as a whole during all hours of the day and night. From the vantage point of my home, I look at the permanent damage left in multiple areas from hours of cars burning tires and doing donuts. When I look down the street to the 45<sup>th</sup> street light, you can see hundreds, if not thousands, of people crowding the street while cars do burnouts. Along with the damage that is left for taxpayers to repair, the behavior is downright dangerous to everyone involved. In fact, it’s completely out of control.

This behavior happens on both public and private properties. In the private parking lots of Satellite Café and Dry 85 restaurant, participants cause excessive noise with vehicles and take over parking lots with enormous crowds. A little further north at 48<sup>th</sup> street, participants were seen skidding and spinning wheels for the onlookers from the Ocean Colony balconies. They overpower our sidewalks, invade our neighborhoods and make it dangerous for our residents and visitors to travel anywhere. We are literally hostages of our own town.

In the midtown area pedestrian traffic is always heavy, as there are several hotels, restaurants and bars in that area. The Town of Ocean City and our partners in the State of Maryland have taken proactive steps by installing a median fence to help reduce the number of pedestrians crossing the highway outside of a designated crosswalk. When the large crowds begin to spill into the highway to get up close and personnel with vehicles doing burnouts, the avenues of a safe exit are narrowed. If a vehicle lost control like it did this past year in this area, the outcome with be devastating.

Our community has been before you, and we stand before you again, asking for assistance from our legislators. We need your help, your support and leadership to aid our Motor Vehicle Event Task Force with creating successful strategies to prevent this behavior before something terrible happens. I strongly and respectfully request that this committee provide **Senate Bill 878 Worcester County- Special Event Zones- Prohibitions** with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

*Anthony J. DeLuca*

City Council Member

**MAYOR**  
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

#### **CITY COUNCIL**

LLOYD MARTIN  
*President*

MARY P. KNIGHT  
*Secretary*

DENNIS W. DARE  
ANTHONY J. DELUCA  
JOHN F. GEHRIG, JR.  
MATTHEW M. JAMES  
MARK L. PADDACK

**CITY MANAGER**  
DOUGLAS R. MILLER

**CITY CLERK**  
DIANA L. CHAVIS, CMC

[www.oceancitymd.gov](http://www.oceancitymd.gov)

P.O. BOX 158 • OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND • 21843-0158



City Hall – (410) 289-8221 • FAX – (410) 289-8703