

MCPA-MSA_SB 612 Street Racing and Exhibition Drivi

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair and
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Chief of Staff David Morris, Co-Chair, MCPA, Joint Legislative Committee
Sheriff Darren Popkin, Co-Chair, MSA, Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: April 5, 2022

RE: **SB 612 – Street Racing, Exhibition Driving, and Noise Abatement -
Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 612**. This bill is intended to address public safety situations that occur from street racing and exhibition driving. The bill increases the points on an individual's license and the penalties associated with these activities.

Across Maryland there have been continual concerns regarding the safety upon our roadways due to the reckless and careless driving engaged in by Street Racers and Exhibition Drivers. The actions of these drivers, who often conduct such activities with large groups of competitors and observers, often cause roadways to be closed to other traffic, including first responders in route to provide care for others. They also cause others using our roadways, including pedestrians and bicyclists, to be placed in grave danger due to their actions. These actions include conducting speed contests on our roads, closing roadways with vehicles and human chains, and conducting exhibition driving activities - all with a careless disregard for others. These activities have been ongoing across our state for a number of years and require the passage of legislation in order to properly address such activities, help preserve the safety and welfare of all, and to achieve our goals of reducing traffic and pedestrian related fatalities and injuries.

Legislation recently passed to establish "special event zones" in Ocean City to address these types of events have been extremely effective. SB 612 extends these measures statewide.

SB 612 proposes a reasonable solution to address the egregious behavior of street racing and exhibition driving. For this reason, **MCPA and MSA SUPPORT 612** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

Article from WUSA9:

[Large crowd in Laurel destroys Prince George's police cruiser](#)

Author: **Bria Jenkins**

Published: **1:54 PM EDT April 3, 2022**

Updated: **3:41 AM EDT April 4, 2022**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. — Detectives with the Prince George's County Police Department are working to identify several people whom they say vandalized a police cruiser during a car meetup.

Police say a large group was in the area of Chevy Chase Drive near Sweitzer Lane in Laurel for a car meet-up around 11:35 p.m. Saturday.

Authorities estimate there were at least 100 cars there and a large number of people.

When the first officer arrived on the scene, police say he activated his lights and sirens to disperse the crowd. People then circled his marked car and began kicking and vandalizing it.

The officer was not hurt, but the vehicle was significantly damaged.

Police said there were no injuries to the attendees in the crowd either.

Additional officers responded to the location and eventually dispersed the crowd.

Police say no arrests were made, but they are working to identify all the individuals who participated in vandalizing the police car.

Anyone with information is urged to call 1-866-411-TIPS.

Article from WBALTV:

[Video shows drivers performing dangerous maneuvers in downtown Baltimore](#)

BALTIMORE —

New video shows standstill traffic Saturday night in downtown Baltimore as some drivers performed dangerous burnouts and donuts, blocking traffic on the roads.

Some city business owners said they are frustrated with not just what happened, but all the crime that has hit the downtown area hard.

"I feel like I'm against the wind right now. I'm spinning in the wind and it's not a good feeling," a resident said.

Saturday night's chaos took place right at Pratt and President streets and the tire marks could still be seen on the intersection Sunday. In the video, cars can be heard backfiring in that area as bystanders in the middle of the road watched.

Business owners said this has become a part of the image of Baltimore and has contributed to what the Baltimore City police union is calling "lawlessness" in the city.

The Baltimore Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 3 said that when officers arrived at the scene, they found a medic team with sirens on trying to get through the intersection. After four traffic light cycles, the union said, Baltimore police tried entering the intersection, where their cars were hit with bottles.

"Let us have that feeling of inclusion. We feel so detached from the City government right now. honestly, very detached," the resident said.

Business owners said tourism has dropped with some choosing to leave altogether, blaming city leadership and police for a lack of action.

"This is a national thing that we're working with enforcement," Mayor Brandon Scott said.

Scott answered questions about that action. Actions, that city leadership say could prove dangerous for responding officers, forcing police to make calculated decisions.

"We're working with our police here but also across the region. We know that often

times we're working with Baltimore County police and other county police around these car clubs that are doing this," Scott said.

Dangerous stunts bringing chaos downtown as frustration brews in Baltimore City.

"I'm in the middle of turmoil right now. I've had my friends and people that have lived here a lifetime that have left and it's sad for me. I never wanted to leave but there's nothing saying stay," the resident said.

WBAL-TV 11 News did ask business owners what a potential solution would be. They said they'd like to see more police patrols downtown and convictions to stop more of these sideshows from happening again.

sb 612 pohibits street racing,.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Coakley

Position: FAV

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Karen Coakley and I am President of the Beltsville Citizen's Association. I want to Thank Senator Beidle for introducing SB 612 Street Racing, Exhibition Driving and Noise Abatement – Prohibited Acts Enforcement and Penalties. I appeared before you in support Delegate Mary Lehman's bill HB 102 <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/downtown-baltimore-drivers-donuts-burnouts/39620138>

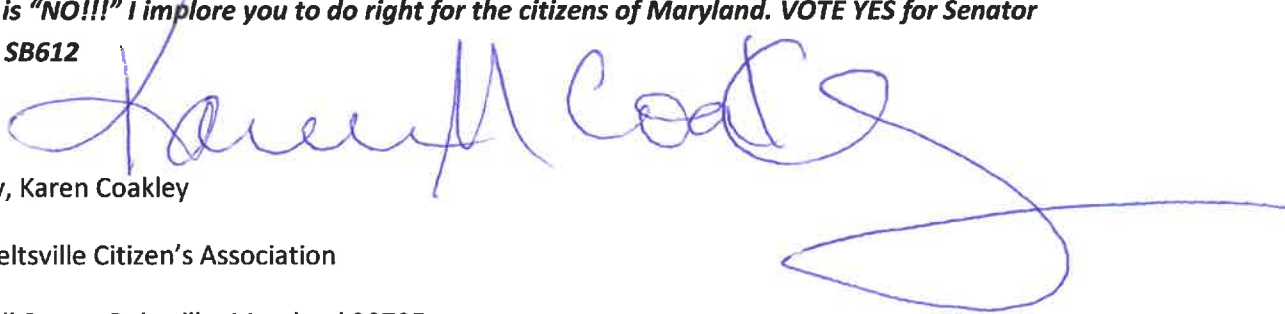
<https://wtop.com/prince-georges-county/2022/04/crowd-at-car-meetup-attack-and-vandalize-prince-georges-co-police-cruiser/>

*****Does someone have to DIE.....before you do right by the Citizens of Maryland!!!! These racing parties CLOSE roads.....These racing parties cause delays for fire trucks, ambulances, police responding to emergencies!!! They delay John Q. Public taking a loved one to the hospital. What where the participants planning to do when they opened the gas cap of the Prince George's County Police officers cruiser 22 seconds into the video???? I am pretty sure they were not going to fill his tank with gasoline....Heaven only knows what they were planning to do. I am begging you to pass SB612

Let me paint a picture for you..... You are outside taking a walk and a swarm of bees starts buzzing around you. Clearly this creates some knee jerk reactions. Now let's pick up the pace a bit. You are driving on the highway going 60 miles an hour and a swarm of 50 plus+++ cars come buzzing around you at excessive speeds. The drivers are cutting in and out in front of you beside you etc...How are you going to react? Do you hit your breaks? Do you slow down? Then what happens to the cars behind you? Split second reactions driving 60 + miles an hour can have consequences.

Picture number 2 you are taking a family member to the hospital. You are driving on the inner loop of I-95 near College Park when all of a sudden traffic comes to a standstill. You are probably thinking there is an accident up ahead. **WRONG!!! FYI the interstate is closed because those 50plus+++ cars I was telling you about have now decided to closed the inner loop of the beltway so they can do figure"8"'s in the middle of the beltway.** Your arrival at the hospital is delayed not because of an accident. You are delayed so someone can do figure "8"'s in the middle of the beltway!!! This actually happened to a Beltsville resident last spring.

Picture number 3. What happens when first responders, ambulance, firetrucks and the police are also stuck in this traffic??? Stuck in traffic for someone to perform stunts!!! Stunts are being performed as entertainment for the spectators. Spectators add to the congestion. Yes there are people who follow the stunt drivers and racing parties for entertainment. In an emergency situation every second matters. **Is someone's entertainment more important than someone's LIFE??? Be honest with yourself. You know the answer is "NO!!!" I implore you to do right for the citizens of Maryland. VOTE YES for Senator Beidle's bill SB612**



Respectfully, Karen Coakley

President Beltsville Citizen's Association

4412 Tonquil Street, Beltsville, Maryland 20705

SB 612 BPD Support for HETC.pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Wirzberger

Position: FAV



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Michael S. Harrison
Police Commissioner

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Michelle Wirzberger, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.
RE: Senate Bill 612 Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement
DATE: April 5, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department **supports** Senate Bill 612.

Senate Bill 612 creates new penalties for those who participate in a race or speed contest. It also establishes new penalties for those engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public and prohibits a person from attending as a spectator certain race or speed contests or exhibition driving

Baltimore City has seen a large increase in exhibition driving events which typically draw hundreds of vehicles that disrupt communities and present dangers to other drivers. We have worked diligently to track these types of events and disrupt them when they occur to ensure the safety of both those attending and those passing by but these additional penalties will help in that effort.

Overall, the Baltimore Police Department believes that this bill would greatly assist in the prevention of crimes and contribute to our ability to provide for the public safety. Therefore, the Baltimore Police Department respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 612.

Beltway donuts, route 212 driver charged and fined

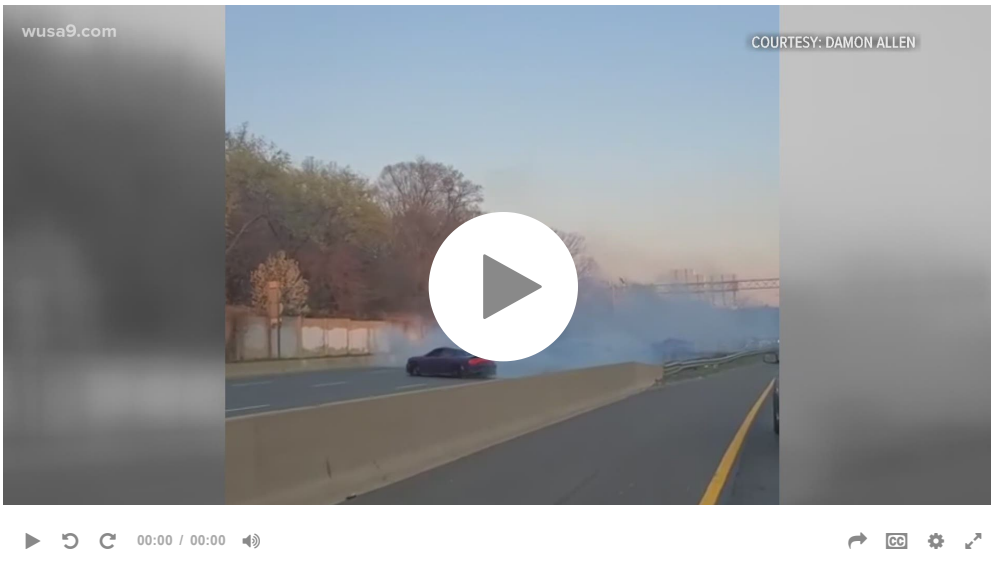
Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

TRAFFIC

Group of drivers does donuts on Beltway, stops traffic

A couple who captured one of the viral videos Saturday said cars were stopped on the Beltway for miles as multiple cars did donuts on the inner loop of I-495.




Author: Jess Arnold
Published: 3:24 PM EDT April 5, 2021
Updated: 8:31 PM EDT April 5, 2021



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. — A group of drivers stopped traffic Saturday evening, as they did donuts in the middle of the Beltway.

As Maryland State Police troopers were responding to that call, they said they were re-routed to Route 212 for reports of similar behavior. Once on scene, police said they identified an orange 2020 Dodge Charger being "operated recklessly." MDSP said they charged the driver with six traffic citations, including reckless driving.



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In a news release, MDSP identified the driver as 20-year-old Jonathan C. Iraheta from Beltsville, and said he's been charged with traveling 90 mph in a 35 mph zone, reckless driving, negligent driving, aggressive driving, following too closely, and unsafe lane change -- totaling more than \$1,800 in fines.

Police said at around 7 p.m. Saturday, the College Park Barrack received multiple calls reporting drivers in high-performance cars blocking the road and spinning wheels on the inner loop of I-495 near Rt. 1. A trooper was immediately dispatched to the scene and allied police agencies were called to assist, according to the news release.

While the trooper was responding, Prince George's County Police received a call reporting the group was now on Rt. 212, according to MDSP. Police said the trooper then headed that way and discovered an orange 2020 Dodge Charger driving recklessly on westbound Rt. 212 at I-95.

Police said the trooper stopped the car, driven by Iraheta, and issued the traffic citations. He also noticed that the temporary tag on the car had been altered to try to conceal the actual tag numbers, so police said they confiscated Iraheta's vehicle to investigate.

RELATED: [DC community leaders call for safety upgrades to Georgia Avenue after 4-year-old hit and killed by a car](#)



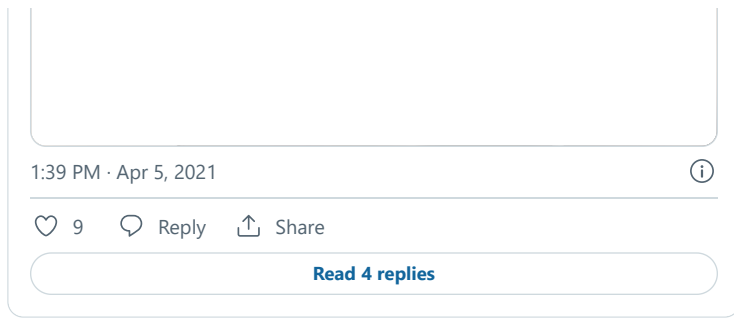
Jess Arnold 
@JessArnoldTV 

 VIDEO  Damon Allen took this video Saturday evening of multiple drivers doing donuts on the Beltway, and holding up traffic - he says - for miles.

Now, @MDSP is charging 1 driver w/ 6 traffic citations, including reckless & aggressive driving.

Hear from Allen on @wusa9 at 6.

[Watch on Twitter](#)



Damon and Tania Allen said they were driving home from visiting friends at the Bishop's Garden at the National Cathedral Saturday afternoon, heading westbound on I-495 South, when they noticed smoke on the road.

"We really thought there was a car fire on the Beltway," Damon Allen said. "We had no idea what was going on, until we saw the three cars doing donuts in the middle of the Beltway."

He said it looked to him like traffic was stopped for miles behind the stunt cars, as cars heading in their direction slowed to watch and take videos -- as his family did.

"It was a little astonishing. I couldn't believe that people were actually so organized, to be able to stop the traffic, and to have the three stunt cars, doing their donuts, and actually not crashing into each other," Tania Allen said. "But also, if there was an emergency...I'm a mom of three and just the thought of if someone needed to get to a hospital or if they were trying to get to work, just the type of inconvenience that was caused by this."

RELATED: [Multiple people hurt in Beltway motorcycle crash, police say](#)



Damon Allen called the incident "exciting and concerning" and said he was glad no one was injured.

Chrissy Nizer, administrator for the MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration, said they have seen more people driving at an extremely high rate of speed during the pandemic – as there have been fewer cars on the road.

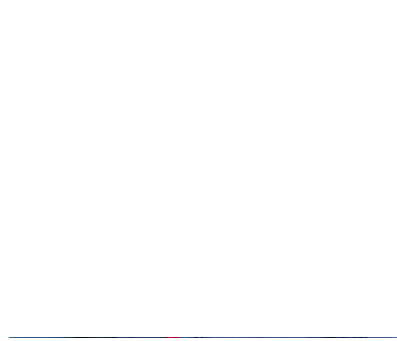
“There have been a few high profile incidents of these kind of dangerous driving behaviors,” Nizer said. “Obviously it’s not safe to do anywhere, whether it’s a major highway or secondary road. Driving is not about acrobatic stunts. It requires your full time and attention.”

As more cars get back on the road this Spring, Nizer urges drivers to slow down.

Maryland state troopers have been involved in multiple enforcement operations with county and municipal police aimed at speeding and reckless driving in the Washington Metro region in recent months, according to MDSP’s news release. Police said they have issued hundreds of citations during these initiatives.

“Obviously, driving behavior witnessed on the Capital Beltway and Rt. 212 yesterday is unlawful, dangerous and a complete disregard for the safety and convenience of others on the highway,” the Maryland State Police said in the release.

MDSP said it will continue enforcement initiatives of similar incidents.



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Driver seen doing doughnuts on Bay Bridge sentence

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle





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Driver seen doing doughnuts on Bay Bridge sentenced to weekend in jail, probation



Updated: 1:27 PM EST Feb 10, 2021

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Jenny Fulginiti [f](#) [t](#) [✉](#)

Digital Editor

The driver of a car seen doing doughnuts and other dangerous activities on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in September has been sentenced to a weekend in jail and 18 month probation.

Gary Ray Montague Jr. entered an Alford plea to disorderly conduct and reckless driving. He was sentenced to 60 days, all suspended except for one weekend, which will start this Friday. He was also sentenced to 18 months probation.

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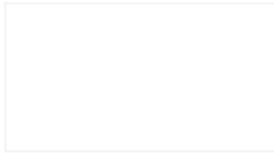
An Alford plea is an admission that the State has enough evidence to convict the individual of the crimes charged.

On Sept. 27, Maryland Transportation Authority police were notified of a [video depicting reckless and dangerous driving](#) behavior that had been posted to social media. Officers conducted a thorough investigation and confirmed that the incident occurred on the westbound span of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge following an [unruly popup car rally in Ocean City](#).

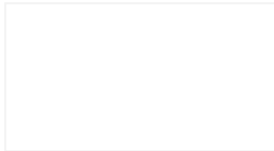
Through the investigation, officers identified 22-year-old Montague of Dumfries, Virginia as the suspected driver of the vehicle in the video, and consulted with the Queen Anne's County

State's Attorney's Office.

Montague was charged with four counts of disorderly conduct and 23 traffic violations. Traffic charges included reckless driving, willfully damaging a highway and driving a motor vehicle in a manner intended to cause skidding.



Disturbance in Ocean City inspires legislation to crack down on unruly behavior



Police: More than 100 arrested in Ocean City during 'unruly' rally; trooper knocked unconscious

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Video shows drivers performing dangerous maneuvers in downtown Baltimore

Updated: 4:41 PM EDT Apr 4, 2022

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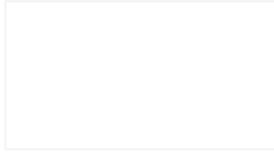
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Dangerous stunts bringing chaos downtown as frustration brews in Baltimore City.

"I'm in the middle of turmoil right now. I've had my friends and people that have lived here a lifetime that have left and it's sad for me. I never wanted to leave but there's nothing saying stay," the resident said.

WBAL-TV 11 News did ask business owners what a potential solution would be. They said they'd like to see more police patrols downtown and convictions to stop more of these sideshows from happening again.

New video sent to 11 News shows an similar incident from early Thursday morning in which a crowd surrounded the driver of a car that spun around and did burnouts at the intersection of Falls Road and 41st Street in north Baltimore.



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Maryland State Police Addressing Illegal Street Ra

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

News Room

News Releases



Maryland State Police Addressing Illegal Street Racing In Baltimore County

March 19, 2021

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) — A multi-vehicle crash earlier this week on Interstate 70 highlighted the dangers of illegal street racing in the Baltimore area and is one of the reasons state and county police are launching new enforcement initiatives.

At about 11:25 p.m. on Monday, troopers from the Maryland State Police Golden Ring Barrack responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash at I-70 West prior to I-695 in Baltimore County. According to a preliminary investigation, a 1999 Honda CRV was stopped in the left lane as the road was blocked off due to street racers. At the same time, the driver of a 2018 Ford Focus failed to stop and rear-ended the Honda. At least two people were transported by ambulance to Shock Trauma for treatments of their injuries.

The incident on Monday is the latest example of illegal racing occurring on Baltimore area highways. In 2020, the Golden Ring Barrack received 93 calls about illegal racing in Baltimore County. Those found guilty of illegal street racing can face fines of up to \$500 and potential jail time as well.

Maryland State Police are planning targeted initiatives with allied agencies, including Baltimore County Police, throughout the next several months. These would be the latest in several efforts troopers have taken to address the issue.

For example, in June 2019, a joint law enforcement initiative to combat aggressive driving and illegal street racing led to 120 citations being issued to motorists in Baltimore County.

In this 2019 effort, Maryland State Police from the Golden Ring Barrack, Motor Unit, Automotive Safety Enforcement Division and the Criminal Enforcement Division joined forces with the Baltimore County Police Department to combat illegal street racing in areas known for the aggressive driving behavior.

The joint enforcement effort took place in areas along Interstate 70, I-695, I-795, Baltimore National Pike, Security Boulevard and Pulaski Highway. In 2018, a similar joint operation on I-70 and I-695 resulted in 65 traffic stops, which led to troopers and officers issuing 97 citations, 33 warnings and 23 safety equipment repair orders.

These high visibility enforcement efforts are aimed at reducing the number of aggressive driving, motor vehicle crashes in which speed, alcohol and other driving violations are contributing factors to crashes on Maryland roads.

Anyone who witnesses an illegal street race or has information about an upcoming race is asked to contact the Golden Ring Barrack at 410-780-2700.

###

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Multi-Jurisdictional Drag Racing Initiative Leads

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Position: FAV

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Multi-Jurisdictional Drag Racing Initiative Leads To Jail Time For Anne Arundel County Man

November 9, 2018

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) – The recent sentencing of an Anne Arundel County man found guilty on charges related to illegal street racing in Baltimore County highlights the seriousness with which law enforcement takes combatting the issue in Maryland.

Matthew Lee Broseker, 25, of Glen Burnie, on Wednesday was found guilty in Baltimore County District Court of participating in a speed contest, failing to display a registration card, spinning wheels and driving an uninsured motor vehicle. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail at the Baltimore County Detention Center and fined \$1,000 as part of his punishment.

Charges against Broseker came after Maryland state troopers from the Golden Ring Barrack and Baltimore County officers joined forces in August to carry out a joint initiative that focused enforcement efforts on aggressive driving and illegal street racing in Baltimore County.

Traffic enforcement efforts by Maryland state troopers and Baltimore County officers during the operation resulted in more than 60 traffic stops that led to three arrests of impaired drivers. The enforcement efforts took place from Aug. 17 to 18, 2018. During that period, troopers and officers arrested three impaired drivers, cited two additional drivers for suspended licenses and cited two other street racers with multiple citations. Overall, the initiative yielded 65 traffic stops which led to troopers and officers issuing 97 citations, 33 warnings and 23 safety equipment repair orders.

The joint initiative took place in the area of Interstate 70 and Interstate 695. Through investigation troopers and officers learned about two illegal street races, one taking place on I-70. The race had a crowd of what investigators estimated to be 50 to 60 people. Participants shut down westbound I-70 for approximately 15 minutes while the illegal street racing was going on.

Troopers and officers were able to strategically position themselves ahead of the street racing activity. At some point participants were alerted to the police presence and started to flee from the racing area on I-70. The joint team was able to stop two street racers and both illegal street racers were charged appropriately.

The Maryland State Police Golden Ring Barrack and the Baltimore County Police Department will continue their efforts to put a stop to illegal street racing and deter others from being a part of such illegal activity. Future initiatives are planned to continue to combat the issue.

The Maryland State Police continue to support the Maryland Department of Transportation's campaign "Toward Zero Deaths." These high visibility enforcement efforts reduce the number of aggressive driving, motor vehicle crashes in which speed, alcohol and other driving violations are contributing factors to crashes on Maryland roads. Troopers will continue these initiatives on a regular basis.

###

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Ocean City, Md. tackles H2oi car rally 2021 with n

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

MARYLAND

H2Oi 2021: How Ocean City plans to tackle pop-up car rally



Maddie Aiken

Salisbury Daily Times

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Aug. 31, 2021 | Updated 1:06 p.m. ET Sept. 21, 2021

In under four weeks, Ocean City will likely be filled with drag racing, excessive drinking, cars doing donuts and other unruly behaviors as thousands head to town for unofficial H2Oi.

The Motor Event Task Force met Friday to share Ocean City's plans to mitigate crime and harm at this year's unsanctioned car rally.

H2Oi was once an organized car show in the region. Though the official event has since moved to New Jersey, many car enthusiasts continue to celebrate on the Eastern Shore.

Last year's H2Oi resulted in more than 500 cases of charges filed in Worcester County, not including minor traffic citations. Ocean City accounted for 396 of those cases.

Ocean City Police Chief Ross Buzzuro said the town has based its plan to handle this year's H2Oi on what it learned from previous years.

Here's what you can expect at H2Oi 2021:

Reduced speed limits in Worcester County

The town of Ocean City will become a special event zone from Tuesday, Sept. 21, to Sunday, Sept. 26.

During this time, all speed limits over 30 mph will be reduced to 30 mph.

Additionally, plans are in process to make all of Worcester County a special event zone during H2Oi. This would reduce speed limits countywide.

Timeline: How H2Oi spiraled from car show to unruly, 'ugly' rally in Ocean City

H2Oi 2021: Driving to Ocean City from Sept. 21-26? What you can expect

Increased police presence

Ocean City Police is preparing to have "all hands on deck" during the event, according to Buzzuro.

Police presence will increase on the Sunday of H2Oi compared to past years. The department typically has less officers on duty on Sundays, but it has made adjustments so more officers are committed to work on Sunday.

Maryland State Police and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office have partnered with the Ocean City Police Department to provide assistance and resources throughout the event.

Increased police enforcement will also be present along Route 50 from the Bay Bridge to Ocean City.

More: Fines, arrests, tons of police, yet Ocean City has yet to shake H2Oi. What else can be done

BACKGROUND: H2Oi police deployment to Ocean City among largest in state history: MSP

Traffic

Buzzuro advised that those traveling in Ocean City during H2Oi prepare for heavy traffic, specifically from Thursday to Saturday.

"If you don't need to be on Coastal Highway, I don't think it would be the best idea (to drive on it) unless you absolutely have to," he said.

Rumble strips will be placed "strategically" throughout Ocean City, according to Buzzuro.

IN 2020: Crowds take over parts of downtown Ocean City as unofficial car rally escalates

Additionally, vehicles on the road that are deemed to be unsafe will be towed. More than 40 tow trucks will assist OCPD in towing.

In April, the Maryland Department of Transportation announced plans to step up enforcement between the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Ocean City during H2Oi through the through the Bay to Beach Highway Safety initiative. Local police will watch for speeding,

aggressive driving and any vehicles that don't meet state safety standards during the safety week, said Greg Slater, Maryland secretary of transportation.

Data collecting

Ocean City has signed an agreement with data collection companies. After this year, the town will collect information on who comes to H2Oi and where they go throughout the town and county.

Jessica Waters, Ocean City communications manager, said Ocean City will use data collecting to learn how to further mitigate crime during the unsanctioned event.

"Problem properties"

Ocean City has taken into account several of the properties that bring the biggest issues at H2Oi in previous years.

Mayor Rick Meehan said he has already reached out to one of these properties about past problems, and the property now plans to hire private security and take into account how many people are on property this year.

Meehan and Buzzuro plan to contact several other properties about past issues, to discuss how these issues can be prevented this year.

2021: Ocean City looks to businesses to hire private security during H2Oi

Looking ahead

With H2Oi 2021 just around the corner, Ocean City already has plans in store for H2Oi 2022.

In 2022, Ocean City hopes to hold a three-day concert during the weekend of H2Oi. Additionally, the town wants to host a sporting event that weekend.

"For the last 10 years when the pop-up rally was here, we've kind of been on the defense," Meehan said. "I think we all feel it's time to go on the offense and set our own destiny."

Maddie Aiken is the community reporter for Delmarva Now. Send her story tips at maiken@delmarvanow.com and follow her on Twitter @madsaiken.

Police Continue Efforts To Combat Street Racing An

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

News Room

News Releases



Police Continue Efforts To Combat Street Racing And Excessive Exhaust Noise In Montgomery County

April 21, 2021

(ROCKVILLE, MD) – As part of their ongoing efforts to address street racing and excessive exhaust noise in Montgomery County, police continue initiatives in concentrated areas known for the noise and illegal activity.

The initiative took place yesterday in the area of MD Route 355 between Rockville and Gaithersburg. The coordinated efforts among Montgomery County law enforcement partners included Maryland State Police from the Rockville Barrack, officers from the Gaithersburg Police Department, Rockville City Police, Montgomery County Police and the Maryland Transportation Authority Police.

The combined efforts of all five law enforcement agencies working from 8:00 p.m. to midnight in Montgomery County to address aggressive driving, street racing and the excessive noise caused by modified exhaust systems yielded the following results:

- 125 citations and warnings
- 49 safety equipment repair orders

- 2 criminal arrests

Maryland State Police highway safety initiatives in this region and throughout the state will continue, in cooperation with local law enforcement partners. Please obey the speed limit, do not drive aggressively or impaired and always buckle up.

###

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For more information on human trafficking in Maryland click [here](#).

Police cruiser vandalized by large crowd in Maryla

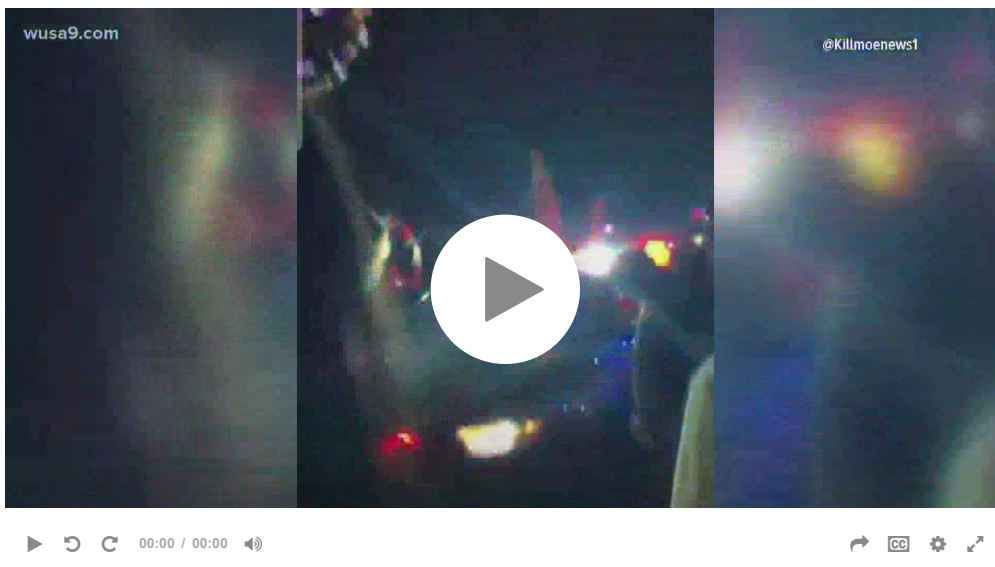
Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

MARYLAND

Large crowd in Laurel destroys Prince George's police cruiser

Video shows the moments a large crowd swarmed a police cruiser and began banging and jumping on it.



Author: **Bria Jenkins**

Published: 1:54 PM EDT April 3, 2022

Updated: 3:41 AM EDT April 4, 2022



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. — Detectives with the Prince George's County Police Department are working to identify several people whom they say vandalized a police cruiser during a car meetup.

Police say a large group was in the area of Chevy Chase Drive near Sweitzer Lane in Laurel for a car meet-up around 11:35 p.m. Saturday.

Authorities estimate there were at least 100 cars there and a large number of people.

When the first officer arrived on the scene, police say he activated his lights and sirens to disperse the crowd. People then circled his marked car and began kicking and vandalizing it.


The officer was not hurt, but the vehicle was significantly damaged.

Police said there were no injuries to the attendees in the crowd either.

Additional officers responded to the location and eventually dispersed the crowd.


Police say no arrests were made, but they are working to identify all the individuals who participated in vandalizing the police car.




Anyone with information is urged to call 1-866-411-TIPS.

killmoenews 
@Killmoenews1

PG POLICE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AT A CAR MEETUP
LAST NIGHT, IN THE VIDEO YOU CAN SEE THEY WERE
FORCED TO LEAVE AFTER THE CROWD BLOCKED THEM.

Watch on Twitter

7:11 AM · Apr 3, 2022 

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Large crowd damages Prince George's County police cruiser



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LOADING NEXT ARTICLE...

Police, neighbors report rise in unruly car meets

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

Burned rubber, doughnuts and smoke. Unruly car meets, street racing disrupt roads and mobilize police.

By [Jasmine Hilton](#) and [Donovan J. Thomas](#)

December 16, 2021 | Updated December 23, 2021 at 3:08 p.m. EST



Hundreds of cars and dozens of spectators packed the parking lots of the Kingstowne Towne Center in Northern Virginia on a Saturday night in November, leaving behind rubber tire marks burned onto the pavement and scattered trash. A week later in downtown Silver Spring, crowds outside a movie theater watched as a band of cars blocking an intersection spun doughnuts, filling the air with clouds of smoke and the roars of engine revs. And in the Baltimore area in March, police said an illegal street race caused a crash that sent at least two people to shock trauma.

Over the past year, neighbors and law enforcement across the Washington region and the United States have raised alarms over what they say is an uptick of unruly car events or street racing that have disrupted traffic, resulted in crashes or ended with fatalities. The concerns have been so severe that at least one state [changed the law](#) to make burnouts and doughnuts illegal, and police departments nationwide have launched new enforcement initiatives to crack down on the activity.

Locally, law enforcement has seen an increase in such car meetups since the start of the pandemic, Montgomery County Capt. Nicholas Picerno said. His department recently responded to more than 100 cars — including some coming from as far away as New Jersey, Delaware and southern Virginia — converged in a Target parking lot in Silver Spring.

“A lot of time, these could be pretty benign events. ... It was kind of a covid-friendly pastime where you could meet in the parking lot and kind of show your cars off, be outside and still interact,” Picerno said. The concern, however, is “it wouldn’t take much for an instance like this to go from a kind of unified rally ... to a violent episode.”

Rhena Tantisunthorn @LandGoose · Nov 21, 2021
Replying to @CordellTraffic

They all end up coming up Georgia to Wheaton. Easily hunc them up here now.

Cordell

@CordellTraffic

VIDEO from TONIGHT at Fenton Street and Ellswor Drive/the Ellsworth Plaza (Downtown Silver Spring, Video taken looking towards/down what would be Ellsworth Pedestrian Plaza. 📹 borrowed from Instagram.

Watch on Tw

12:13 AM · Nov 21, 2021

📍 105 💬 Reply ↗ Share

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Earlier this year, Maryland State Police announced initiatives to address street racing concerns after a crash involving several cars along Interstate 70 around Baltimore.

Ten days after Maryland State Police announced the initiative, which included partnerships with other local law enforcement and troopers focused on speeding and aggressive driving, police said they issued more than 300 traffic citations and warnings during a four-day period. Police said 82 citations and 22 warnings were speeding related and one crash was believed to be related to an illegal street race.

Regional agencies are developing similar initiatives.

On Nov. 13, Fairfax County police said the department responded to several locations, including the 4200 block of John Marr Drive, the 6500 block of Edsall Road and Kingstowne Towne Center starting just before midnight to reports of 100 to 200 cars “driving recklessly” as a large crowd gathered and watched.

Alan Henney

@alanhenny

STREET RACERS CLASH w/ POLICE, AGAIN--- For 2
time this evening, Fx Co police are attempting to
disperse 100-200 street racers. This time they were
Cinder Bed Rd off Backlick Rd. Around 9 p.m. they
at Kingstowne Shopping Ctr. H/T @RealTimeNews
@ffxnow @ARLnowDOTcom

12:24 AM · Nov 14, 2021

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The racers were doing burnouts — spinning cars' wheels in place — and doughnuts — spinning cars in a circle — and kicking up clouds of smoke in parking lots. Drivers were also racing down the street, with much of the footage captured on video on social media, police said.

Using a helicopter to monitor where the cars below were going, officers worked to get the crowds moving along, police said. By the time the night was over, about 90 minutes after the gathering started, two minor crashes occurred but there were no injuries, police said.

So far, no arrests have been made but the department said officers are “reviewing video and photo evidence.”

The event drew complaints from neighbors who live nearby and frequent the shopping center.

“I’m more concerned that our shopping centers are starting to look like drag strips when they leave,” one woman said during a community meeting hosted by the Franconia District police station on Nov. 17.

“They’re literally defacing it with the rubber burn marks all over the parking lines and also they’re leaving trash behind. ... These are shopping centers that are privately owned. And the owners of these shopping centers shouldn’t have to deal with that.”

Commander of the Franconia District Station, Capt. James Krause, said police are monitoring the groups to get ahead of them if they plan future events. Police are also talking to property managers to help keep parking lots clear.

“They did go to some parking lots and kind of having some reckless behavior where they’re peeling out in the parking lot or doing doughnuts. Obviously, that’s dangerous, it’s reckless driving, and, puts people’s safety at risk,” Krause said at the community meeting. “Not to mention the other disturbances, like the fact that it affects the quality of life, the loud, you hear people kind of racing up and down the street. So, it’s disruptive, especially late at night, but this behavior is unacceptable any time.”

On public roads, police will enforce traffic laws to address the racing, Krause said.

DC REALTIME NEWS

@RealTimeNews10

Video coming in for more than 200 street racers that gathered in Northern Virginia at various locations.

Skyflyer Channel 8 News @skyflyer81

Replying to @RealTimeNews10

Seems like alot of car hooligans out in nova tonight

12:55 AM · Nov 14, 2021

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Jacques Mathieu, a Northern Virginia resident who regularly attends sanctioned car meets in which groups have permission to gather, said he knows the kind of “friendship and warmth” that comes out of the camaraderie of bonding over cars and coming together. Mathieu considers himself a “car enthusiast” and has had a love for automobile history for years.

But the recent racing events have been “insulting,” Mathieu said, because of the potentially dangerous behavior exhibited in the streets. He said younger people who attend the racing events should have more outlets to show off their cars, such as a car club or show, instead of racing in the parking lots and downtown.

“Maybe if they had a place to go like they’ve done in certain states ... and encourage them to go somewhere,” Mathieu, 69, said. “There’s nothing out there for these kids.”

Neighbors believe the car meets are indicative of a larger speeding issue and said this is not the first time they have heard of these incidents. In a Fairfax County Nextdoor app thread, residents expressed their frustrations over the racers’ loud mufflers and “lawless behavior.”

Diane Lundin, 46, a Fairfax County resident near Kingstowne, said she tried to get speed humps installed on her street due to “a speed problem” but didn’t get enough votes to pass the measure, which is part of the county’s process for traffic calming measures.

Lundin, who’s lived in various places throughout Alexandria for the last 15 years, said she didn’t start hearing about speed racing until she moved to the area. Lundin said the wide-open lot is likely what made the Kingstowne shopping center appealing for the recent gathering of cars.

“There’s no barriers or medians, it’s basically like an open circle, if you will, where there is nothing to stop you,” Lundin said. “Until somebody actually does something about [speeding], nothing’s gonna happen. ... What are the action items?”

Miles away, in Montgomery County, police said more than 100 cars met up in a Target parking lot in the 12000 block of Cherry Hill Road on Nov. 20 in an incident that spread into Prince George’s County. Officers responded to the scene around 8:45 p.m., “which quickly dissipated the event,” police said.

The cars “fled the scene” toward downtown Silver Spring, where officers cleared out the blocked intersections and gave traffic-related citations, police said. Videos on social media showed people with camera equipment taking videos of the cars as they did tricks in the streets downtown.

“It definitely gave impressions like a Fast and Furious movie,” said Picerno, the Montgomery County captain.

Cordell

@CordellTraffic

SILVER SPRING CHAOS: Several hundred drivers blocking roads, doing donuts, and setting off fireworks between the US-29 corridor, including Downtown Spring, and the College Park Park & Ride off of I-49. One person in custody for fighting officers 495W @ US #MDTraffic

11:40 PM · Nov 20, 2021

 233  Reply  Share

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There was one vehicle collision and one arrest for DUI and no injuries were reported, police said.

Picerno said police had been tracking the group through the day and coordinating with other law enforcement throughout the region. For the next several hours following their arrival, the group relocated to different locations in Montgomery County and then to Prince George's County as multiple agencies partnered together to coordinate a response, including Prince George's police and Virginia State police, Picerno said.

"We were able to have such a swift response to a lot of the locations. We were able to actually be ahead of them at certain points and be able to prevent them from entering places they wanted to go," Picerno said.

Police have been monitoring racing, especially throughout the nearly two years of the pandemic, which left roadways emptier than usual, Picerno said.

The consequences racers can face are case-specific, Picerno said, but can range from a traffic citation, which costs and could lead to points on a driver's license and impact their insurance, to an arrest.

Going forward, Picerno said police are focused on being proactive and working in collaboration with regional partners, "both from an enforcement and intelligence" sharing capacity.

Prince George's County police said several area law enforcement agencies recently partnered to target illegal street racing and car meets. Police said the Dec. 17 operation resulted in four arrests and 169 traffic citations. They said 17 vehicles were impounded.

“I don’t want, and I don’t think the community wants, nor does the department want Montgomery County or the D.C. region to become the epicenter of these sort of events,” Picerno said. “I think maintaining a proactive and visible presence in all sorts of enforcement is critical to determine effectiveness and to give people that sense of security.”



SB 612 Testimony 20220404_16570820.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair

Executive Nominations Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 5, 2022

SB 612
Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts and Enforcement

Good Afternoon Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of Environment and Transportation;

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss SB 612, Street racing and Exhibition Driving. We are seeing this widespread activity known as “Street Racing” on many roadways around the State and also in surrounding states. As you may be aware this weekend was particularly active with this type of event, a police car was destroyed in PG Co and bottles thrown at Police Officers in Baltimore City.

SB612 was amended in Judicial Proceedings:

- clarifying that it must be 2 or more vehicles operating in a reckless manner,
- removing the inclusion of spectators, and
- including a prohibition on modifications to the exhaust systems that exceed sound level limits established by the Administrator under § 22–601 of this subtitle.

It passed the Senate by a vote of 47 to 0.

Most street racing events are planned using social media on apps like “snap chat.” Frequently, law enforcement is lucky enough to follow the communication and have enough officers on duty to protect the general public; other times these events just pop-up and law enforcement is not prepared. Often participants see law enforcement and using social media quickly change locations.

Exhibition driving includes activity like excessive acceleration, skidding and squealing, burning and smoking tires, swerving or swaying of the motor vehicle, loud noise, grinding of gears, backfiring and losing contact with the ground. We have included spectators in the bill, they are part of the problem, acting as timekeepers, flagman, or blocking entrances to highways or parking lots.

You may hear today about major roads in Baltimore City being blocked for this type of exhibition or highways like 270, 495 and 95. If a dozen officers are available to charge

the drivers, hundreds of cars may drive by, while tickets are issued to only a few. The bill allows:

- points on driving records,
- the ability to impound the vehicles,
- jail time up to 60 days, and
- fines not exceeding \$1000.

These are all valuable tools for law enforcement as they try to control this type of activity.

Ocean City pioneered this legislation with the H2O unsanctioned exhibition racing event that occurs in and around Ocean City, Maryland annually. In 2021, Maryland State Police issued over 800 citations and over 600 warnings within the Special Event Zone from 9/23/21 through 9/26/21, they also made 14 DUI arrests, 8 criminal arrests and 3 illegal drug arrests and hundreds of cars were impounded. 2021 was a significant improvement over 2020.

Increasing the fines and giving law enforcement the right to impound has made a significant difference in controlling the exhibition racing. These measures have worked well in Ocean City for the H2O event and will assist with enforcement for all exhibition speed racing across the state

It's time to put an end to this dangerous activity of Street Racing, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 612.

SB612_FAV_Weiss

Uploaded by: Ron Weiss

Position: FAV

Testimony to Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee

SB 612 - Support

April 4, 2022

Ronald Weiss
12511 Haxall Ct.
Fort Washington, MD 20744
weissster@gmail.com 301-292-8112

RE: Support of SB 612, "Street Racing and, Exhibition Driving, and Noise Abatement – Prohibited Acts and, Enforcement, and Penalties"

I am Ron Weiss, a founding member of the MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee, a founding member of the Prince George's Police Division 7 Citizens Advisory Council, a founding member of the Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety, president of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council and a board member of the Tantallon Citizens Association speaking for myself in support of SB 612.

Transportation safety depends on users following the rules of the road to provide a predictable environment for all users. Racing and speed contests inject chaos in our road environment and make our driving environment less predictable and riskier. Contestants value their pleasure over our basic rights to safety, peace, and tranquility. SB 612 will go a long way to deter their dangerous exhibitions of bad behavior.

I am heartened by the support of this bill by state and local police and by the Prince George's County Council.

I urge the committee to support SB 612.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ronald F. Weiss

SB612 written support testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Shawn Vinson

Position: FAV

MELISSA R. HYATT
Chief of Police



"INTEGRITY...FAIRNESS...SERVICE"
April 4, 2022

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Maryland House of Delegates
Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Support of Senate Bill 612: Street Racing, Exhibition Driving, and Noise Abatement - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Dear Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

This letter is to express the Baltimore County Police Department's support of Senate Bill 612. This bill would add violations to the Transportation Article in order to equip law enforcement agencies with the authority to be able to address exhibition driving, racing, and speed contests. These pop-up events have occurred in Baltimore County and several other jurisdictions across our state. Exhibition driving involves dangerous motor vehicle maneuvers by amateur drivers, placing themselves and spectators in serious harm. Most significantly, the potential for un-involved citizens to happen upon these events and face injury is a strong possibility.

Our agency, like many others, need to be able to address the problem of exhibition driving, racing, and speed contests quickly and effectively. Senate Bill 612 will provide this avenue. As such, Baltimore County Police Department requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 612.

Respectfully,

Shawn Vinson

Sgt. Shawn Vinson

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MSP Position Paper to support SB612.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Williams

Position: FAV



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Section
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: April 4, 2022

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 612 **Position:** Support

BILL TITLE: Street Racing, Exhibition Driving, and Noise Abatement – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:

This legislation seeks to prohibit a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public. This legislation authorizes the towing and impounding of a vehicle participating and increases the penalties.

The Maryland General Assembly enacted similar legislation in 2019 specific to Ocean City, Maryland in an effort to reduce the dangerous and unlawful operation of motor vehicles during unsanctioned events within the town. The most famous is the H2O event. Ocean City historically has three unsanctioned car events throughout the year. With funding from the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the partnerships with the State Police and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, the Ocean City Police Department has made a combined effort to reduce the illegal activities of these events and maintain vehicle and pedestrian safety in the town.

Armed with the new law, while focusing law enforcement resources and using public safety announcements, Ocean City has achieved successful results. In 2017, prior to the law being enacted, OCPD conducted 945 traffic stops, investigated 74 crashes and made 169 arrests. In 2021, OCPD conducted 1,772 traffic stops, investigated 36 crashes and made 242 arrests. While the number of traffic stops and arrest increased over 2017, it is clear the new law allowed for targeted enforcement and a reduction of crashes. This targeted enforcement has identified and removed 54 impaired drivers and led to the arrest of 58 people for weapons violations.

Senate Bill 612 will allow for other jurisdictions throughout the State to use the same law and tools to make their roadways safer. Currently, law enforcement can only issue citations for these types of driving behaviors. The driver is released from the traffic stop and may continue their reckless driving. With the passage of this bill, law enforcement will be able to impound and tow the vehicle. This not only prohibits the driver from continuing to drive in this reckless manner, but also acts as a deterrent to driving in this manner in the future. In jurisdictions throughout the State, there have been countless examples of speed contests and exhibition driving resulting in the death of either participants or spectators. The most recent demonstration of exhibition driving occurred in Baltimore on Pratt Street and President Street. The Maryland General Assembly has previously allowed for the use of speed monitoring cameras in areas known to have such violations such as Rt 210 in Prince George's County. This legislation will add another tool for law enforcement and local governments to ensure the safety of all persons within the State.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the committee to give Senate Bill 612 a favorable report.