



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.