

HOUSE BILL 208 – SUPPORT Environment & Transportation Committee February 7, 2023

The Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA) writes to **SUPPORT House Bill 208 - Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties** which would increase penalties and points assessments for violations related to participation in racing or speed contests. The bill would also establish a statewide prohibition on exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the general public. Additionally, the bill would authorize a police officer to order the towing and impounding of a vehicle that is driven in a race or speed contest or is the subject of an exhibition driving violation.

PGCMA recognizes that there are serious concerns for public safety upon our roadways due to intentionally dangerous driving engaged by Street Racers and Exhibition Drivers. Aside from the illegality of their fast driving, the recklessness of their decision making to get ahead of the competitors puts all parties at a hazardous risk for injury. This includes behavior such as weaving through roads, running stop signs or red lights and intentionally abrupt acceleration or braking. These activities typically occur in larger groups, contributing to traffic congestion and can even block first responders from being able to reach their emergency calls. No citizen in Maryland should have to bear the consequences of another individual's choice to drive recklessly.

This bill would send a strong message that Street Races and Exhibition Driving is strictly prohibited in Maryland as there will be penalties for such reckless behavior whether you are a driver or a spectator. For these reasons we believe this public safety measure will benefit municipalities in Prince George's County and across the state. Therefore, PGCMA respectfully requests a **favorable** report for **House Bill 208**. Thank you.

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