



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 9, 2023

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 208, *Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties*
Support

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 208, *Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties*.

House Bill 208 would change the penalties and points assessed for motorists engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public and would authorize the police to tow and impound involved vehicles.

Exhibition driving means intentionally driving a vehicle in a manner that disturbs the peace by creating unnecessary engine noise, and associated tire squeals or sliding caused by the car's abrupt accelerating and braking. Montgomery County has experienced an increasing number of "car meet-ups" whereby large groups of people converge at pre-designated locations to cheer and encourage street racing. The events have resulted in unauthorized closures of public roadways and have endangered drivers and pedestrians alike in our communities. House Bill 208 would enhance public safety by sending a strong message to everyone that street racing and exhibition driving is strictly prohibited and that those engaged in it will be penalized.

I respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee vote favorable on the bill.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee