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Testimony in **Support** of

**HB 208 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement,  
and Penalties**

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Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to show my strong support for House Bill (HB) 208 on behalf of State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy and to urge a favorable report. I am an Assistant State's Attorney in the Special Prosecutions Unit in the State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County.

As a member of the Special Prosecutions Unit, I prosecute, among other offenses, vehicular homicides and negligent driving resulting in life-threatening injuries. As a result, I am all too familiar with the reality that very many of the horrendous collisions the Special Prosecutions Unit investigates result from individuals who are engaged in street racing or simply "showing off," almost always in the pursuit of content to post on social media (such as Instagram and the like).

The provisions proposed under HB 208 to enhance penalties for highway racing and speed contests are well-justified and will strengthen the hand of law enforcement in quelling such conduct. So, too, will the proposed provisions empowering police officers to tow and impound vehicles utilized in these dangerous activities, especially if a conviction under these statutes can result in forfeiture of the seized vehicle. For these reasons, among others, I strongly support HB 208.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report, and ultimately passage, on HB 208.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward J. Leyden  
Assistant State's Attorney – Special Prosecutions Unit  
State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County