

Carrington 2023 Testimony SB147 - Street Racing an

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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SB147 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving - Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

FAVORABLE

Carrington & Associates, LLC, on behalf of Sensys Gatso, requests a **FAVORABLE** report for SB147. This bill alters certain penalties and the points assessments for certain motor vehicle violations related to participation in a race or speed contest; prohibiting a person from engaging in exhibition driving on any highway or private property that is used for driving by the public; prohibiting a person from attending as a spectator certain race or speed contests or any engagement of exhibition driving; and authorizing the towing and impounding of a vehicle involved in a race or speed contest or exhibition driving.

[Sensys Gatso](#) is the leading provider of automated traffic enforcement solutions with a strong global presence. Their mission is saving lives by changing the driving behavior of motorists. They are firmly committed to improving road safety by reducing vehicle speed and red light negation, by optimizing traffic flows and by contributing to a sustainable urban environment, always in close partnership with governments and other authorities all over the world.

The Sensys Gatso Group has more than 60 years' experience in developing and manufacturing innovative traffic enforcement, traffic management and managed services solutions, delivered to more than 70 countries worldwide. Since 1997, Sensys Gatso has supported the Swedish Government to implement their globally embraced road traffic safety project '**Vision Zero**', aiming to achieve a road traffic system with no fatalities or serious injuries.

Sensys Gatso listens closely to the concerns of the residents in the communities they serve all over the world. No can escape witnessing first-hand the incidents of dangerous speeding and/or

racing contests on our public roads be it Silver Spring, Mt. Rainer, Ocean City or any of the other Cities and Towns across the globe that Sensys Gatso monitors and services.

It appears this behavior was exacerbated by the COVID Pandemic when empty roadways presented additional opportunities for these illegal activities. Sensys Gatso believes that additional penalties must be imposed to stem the tide of this behavior that is a threat to human life. Accidents that will occur during these contests will likely lead to severe bodily injury and/or death. It is understood that those persons that commit these offenses are aware that their actions are illegal and dangerous, therefore, each subsequent repeat offense of this title should result in severe, graduated penalties to the offender.

We collectively applaud the City of Baltimore for passing legislation to ban people from stunt driving and racing. As City Resident Ms. Esther Causion so perfectly stated, **"No matter how good your driving skills are, no matter how fun it seems, there is at a lot of danger to that, and there is a place that you can go and become a racecar driver if that's what you want to do, but the streets of Baltimore is not a place for that."**

For the stated reasons, we ask for a **FAVORABLE** report on SB147.

Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington at darrell.carrington@verizon.net, if you would like any additional information.

SB147_djung_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Deb Jung

Position: FAV



Howard County Council

Deb Jung
Councilmember

District 4

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

January 30, 2023
SB 147
Deb Jung
Howard County Council
FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Senator Smith, Vice Chair Senator Waldstreicher, and Judiciary Proceedings Committee Members:

Thank you, Senator Beidle for introducing SB147. This is a much-needed bill for local jurisdictions in Maryland.

While drag racing and exhibition driving has always been a problem, the instances of such activity grew exponentially during the COVID quarantine and became commonplace in many communities. Meet ups were planned via social media, large groups of cars would gather to race down major State roads and local streets, and local police were at a loss about how to stop this activity given the number of vehicles and the ability for the cars to disperse quickly.

As a Councilmember in Howard County, I am aware that most residents would welcome prohibitions and increased penalties for this type of activity. Complaints about loud engines and car racing frequently fill my Council inbox and were one of the most common concerns I heard when I was door knocking during my reelection campaign. My Councilmanic District is bounded by Route 29 and Route 108 and bisected by Route 32. Loud engine noise and car racing is a frequent occurrence on all of these roads. I know this because I hear it from Route 32 in my home almost every night. Not only does this activity take place on our major roads, it also occurs in the parking lots at the Columbia Mall, our Village Centers, including one that was defaced with tire tracks from a pop-up rally, and on local neighborhood streets creating extremely loud disturbances.

Our County has attempted to address the issue but has expressed the need for more tools to be successful. On August 8, 2022, one of our Columbia Village Boards held a town hall to discuss issues involving cars with modified engines racing through neighborhoods, disturbing the peace, and illegal street racing. I attended the meeting as a panelist, as did other elected officials, the Howard County Police Chief Der, and Police Major Justin Baker, who directs field operations.

Chief Der stated that the problem of car rallies started in October 2020 and that in May 2021 police throughout the state started working cooperatively because the situation had escalated to

include large groups of cars performing stunts for media posts. Chief Der noted that the police monitor social media for rally locations to prevent gatherings designed to disturb the peace and endanger public safety. Major Baker stated that the most effective deterrent at present is the equipment repair order, which requires modified exhaust systems to be restored to factory settings.

Former State Delegate Reid Novotny, another panelist that evening, related an incident he witnessed when returning home on Route 32 one evening with his child. He and nearby cars were brought to a stop by drag racers so that they could conduct an impromptu car race on the State highway. Needless to say, he expressed concern about the safety of his child during a routine trip home.

At the end of the town hall, the panel discussed the 2022 General Assembly bill that would have given police the ability to impound on site but was vetoed by Governor Hogan. The police in attendance that night felt that any increased penalties or powers would help improve responses to the calls that they get. We need to find more proactive ways to remove these dangerous drivers from our roads and Senator Beidle's bill will go a long way to help in that effort.

I urge all of you to vote in favor of SB147. Thank your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Deb Jung
Councilmember, District 4

MCPA-MSA_SB 147_Street Racing and Exhibition Drivi

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 31, 2023

RE: **SB 147 – Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts,
Enforcement, and Penalties**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 147**. 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 of 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 en 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 several years and require legislation to properly address such activities, help preserve the safety and welfare of all, and 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 has been extremely effective. SB 147 extends these measures statewide.

SB 147 proposes a reasonable solution to address the egregious behavior of street racing and exhibition driving. For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 147** and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

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Exhibition Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
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Finance Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 31, 2023

SB 147

Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement & Penalties

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings;

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss SB 147, Street Racing and Exhibition Driving. We are seeing this widespread activity known as "Street Racing" on many of the State's roadways and also in surrounding states.

Last year, SB 612 passed both the Senate and the House and was then vetoed by the Governor. It was vetoed as the amended version of the bill inadvertently undermined the effectiveness of the Ocean City -Worcester County exhibition driving law.

I have worked with Ocean City to craft legislation that maintains their ability to maintain public safety while expanding the scope statewide.

It's time to put an end to this dangerous activity, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 147.

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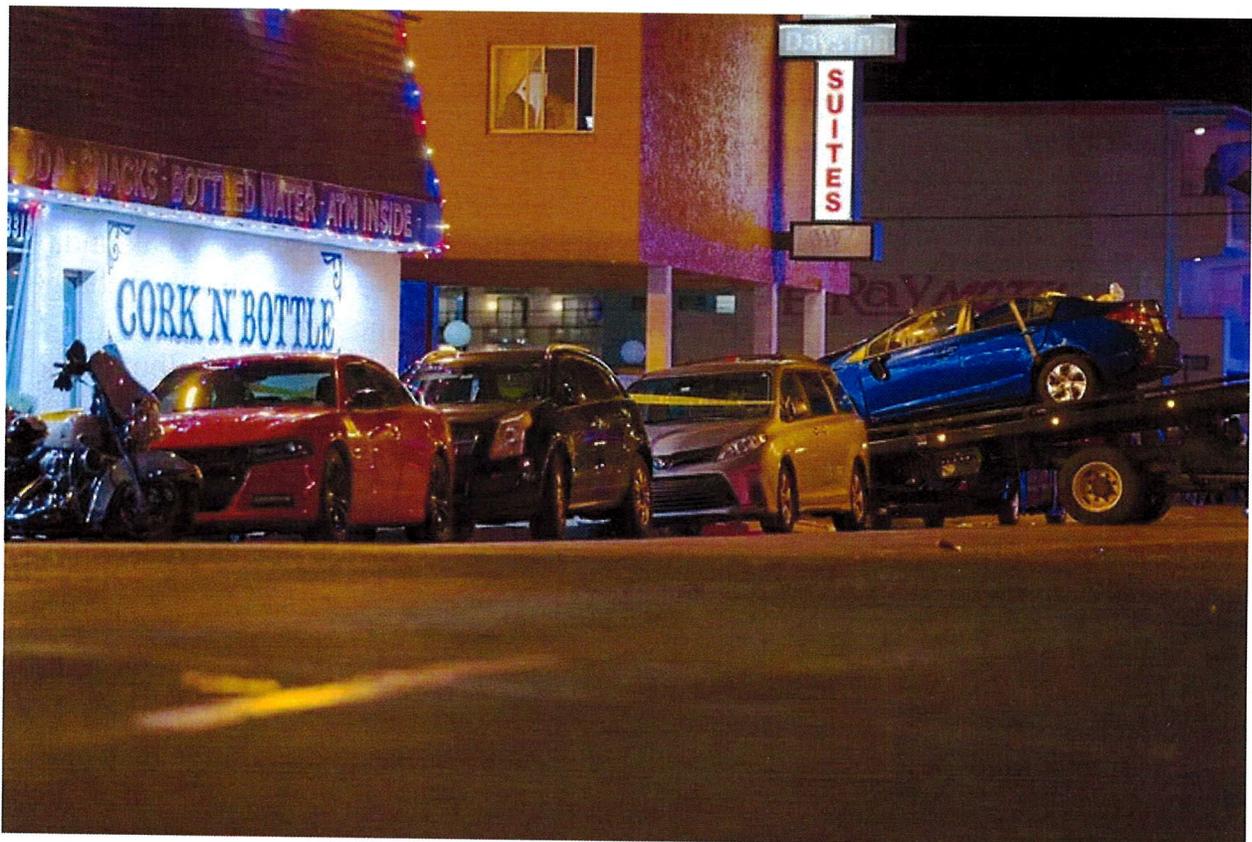
Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV

NEWS

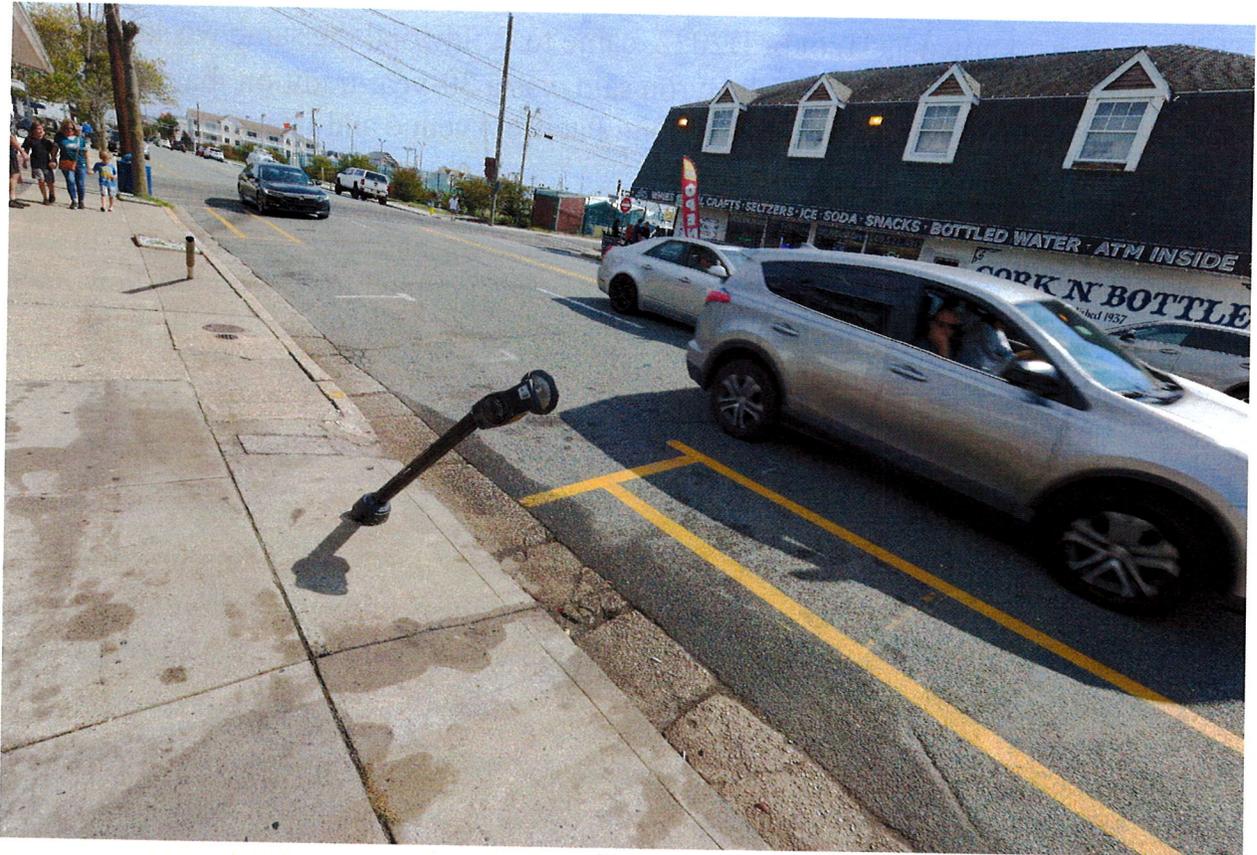
Man charged in two deaths after he crashed his car into an intersection in unsanctioned Wildwood drag race

Police charged Gerald J. White, 37, of Pittsburgh with two counts of death by auto and two counts of assault by auto, in the death of Lindsay Weakland, 18, and Timothy Ogden, 34.



A blue Honda is loaded onto a flatbed tow truck in Wildwood, N.J., late Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. Authorities say at least two people were killed at a pop-up car rally. Dave Hernandez | For NJ Advance

by [Jake Blumgart](#)



Bent parking meters are seen in front of Bagel Time Cafe in Wildwood, N.J., where an accident occurred the night before. At least two people were killed Saturday night during a pop-up car rally. Tim Hawk | NJ Advance Media for

According to a news release from the prosecutor's office, police officers were called to the intersection of Burk and Atlantic Avenues after a report of a multi-vehicle crash involving pedestrians around 9:30 p.m. Saturday.

White was driving a 2003 Nissan Infiniti when he first struck a 2014 Honda Civic, and then hit two pedestrians. Weakland, a pedestrian, died at the intersection. Ogden, a passenger in the Honda, died at the Atlantic City Medical Center as a result of his injuries. Police apprehended White after he attempted to flee the scene. No information about any injuries to the other pedestrian were released by police Sunday.

Authorities were aware of this weekend's planned roadway festivities, and the city's commissioners released a Sept. 21 statement warning against reckless driving.

"The Board of Commissioners emphasizes that all visitors to the Wildwoods are welcome and are expected to obey all ordinances and laws during their visit," the statement read.

“Not everyone that went to Wildwood for H2Oi was there to cause havoc,” said Keller. “It’s quite sad that everyone attending the event this weekend will be umbrellaed into the same group of people that caused this tragedy.”

Keller said that there is now discussion among members of the Facebook group about creating a sanctioned version of the meet-ups with safeguards to protect the public.

“The H2Oi group took a huge hit with what occurred and a lot of discussions will need to be had if there will ever be a chance to recover from this,” said Keller. “It will need to be sanctioned and a place will need to be acquired for the reckless people to do the dumb stuff safely.”

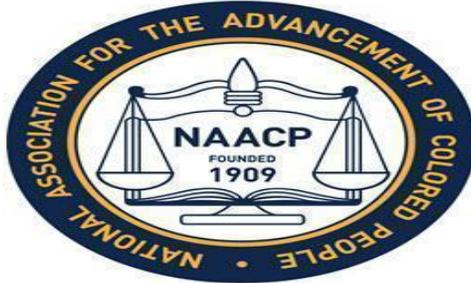
Dangerous driving and road deaths have surged since 2020 across the United States, part of a [trend of reckless and uncivil behavior](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [released data](#) showing that 20,175 people died in car crashes in the first half of 2022, a 0.5% increase from the first half of 2021.

The federal government reported, however, that the period between April and June saw the first decline in fatalities after seven consecutive quarters of increasing carnage, which started in 2020.

IN FAVORSB0147.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Coleman

Position: FAV



Randallstown

P.O. Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

January 30, 2023

Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT SB 0147, Street Racing and Exhibition Driving

Dear Chair William Smith:

May it be known the mission of the Randallstown NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons in Baltimore County and the State of Maryland. The Randallstown NAACP members have stated Public Safety, Education and the Economy/ taxes as the top three issues.

Illegal car races are invading American streets from Woodlawn to Owings Mills, with shocking video emerging of huge crowds gathered to watch highly dangerous driving.

The consequences can be deadly and can terrorize neighborhoods. Despite this growing problem, there's only a patchwork of laws and strategies to reign in street racing in Maryland.

The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 0147.

yours,

Ryan Coleman
Randallstown NAACP, President
<http://randallstownnaacp.yolasite.com>

MSP Support Position Paper.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: January 31, 2023

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 147 **Position:** Support

BILL TITLE: Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – 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 designated for use by the public. This legislation authorizes the towing and impounding of a vehicle participating in a race, speed contest, or exhibition driving 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 partnerships with the Department of 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, 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 147 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 Maryland General Assembly has allowed for the use of speed monitoring cameras in areas known to have such violations, and this legislation will add another tool for law enforcement and local government to ensure the safety of all persons within the State.

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

POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Last year's legislation was vetoed because the definition of exhibition driving was changed to require two or more motor vehicles thereby negatively impacting Ocean City's program and any potential statewide enforcement of the statute. Exhibition driving usually involves one vehicle, while racing or participating in a speed contest involves two or more motor vehicles.

As written, SB 147 expands the ability of law enforcement to take a successful program, as demonstrated by Ocean City, statewide to combat this very unsafe driving behavior.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 147 a favorable report.