



February 13, 2024

Bill: Senate Bill 442 Street Racing and Exhibition Driving- Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties

Position: Support

The City of Gaithersburg writes to support SB442- Street Racing and Exhibition Driving- Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties. If enacted, this legislation would alter certain penalties and 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; and establishing certain affirmative defenses to a charge of exhibition driving. Senate Bill 442 will contribute to reducing accidents due to street racing often involving high speeds and reckless driving. Senate Bill 442 aims to reduce the frequency of racing related crashes, which can result in serious injuries and fatalities.

We believe that this bill is a significant step toward ensuring the quality of life, not just in the city of Gaithersburg but for the entire state of Maryland. Street racing can negatively impact the quality of life for residents by causing excessive noise, disruptions, and unsafe and undesirable areas. If enacted this legislation will reduce accidents, life quality, and increase public safety. The intent of the bill is to address street racing by increasing penalties and adding provisions for “Exhibition Driving”, which provides police with another enforcement option when confronted with “street takeovers” that have occurred in the county, most recently in Silver Spring.

Enacting laws against street racing reinforces the principle that individuals are accountable for their actions on the road. Senate Bill 442 establishes a legal framework that holds those engaging in dangerous and illegal activities responsible for consequences of their behavior. By discouraging street racing, this legislation contributes to the overall efficiency of transportation systems, promoting safer and more predictable traffic conditions. Overall, enacting and enforcing Senate Bill 442 is a multifaceted approach to promoting public safety, deterring dangerous behaviors, and fostering a secure and orderly transportation environment for Maryland’s communities.

Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 442. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at therese@ashlargr.com. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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