



SafeRoadsMD

SB 442
“Street Racing and Exhibition Driving –
Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties”
PLEASE SUPPORT

MARYLAND COALITION FOR ROADWAY SAFETY, INC.
URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 442

February 12, 2024

TO:

Honorable Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Honorable Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

FROM:

John J. Seng, Chair
SafeRoadsMD - *Maryland Coalition For Roadway Safety, Inc.*
JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org (202) 468-7682
SafeRoadsMD.org

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Waldstreicher:

SafeRoadsMD, a four-year old statewide non-profit advocacy organization, **strongly supports the enactment of SB 442, the “Street Racing and Exhibition Driving – Prohibited Acts, Enforcement, and Penalties” bill.**

We respectfully request that the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee submit a favorable response to this bill to combat not only persistent, but increasing episodes of highly-organized criminal exhibition driving in metropolitan centers and on roads throughout Maryland.

SafeRoadsMD consists of Marylanders who care and speak for all Marylanders concerned about and taking action to increase safety on our roads. Over the past three years, we and other groups have lobbied and petitioned for Maryland leaders to take alarm and strengthen the law to increase deterrence and make the problem stop.

Instead, the problem’s metastasized. From last year through this past weekend, highly organized, tech-savvy criminal gangs hijack our shopping malls and town centers from Baltimore County to Takoma Park to Silver Spring and elsewhere to attract and stoke a mob’s sensory pleasures for their economic gain. It’s the “belly of the beast” in illegal roadway crime. And your constituents pay the costs of destruction, interruption in services and threat to safety.

Please see the attached evidence. When viewing recordings of the mayhem, **how does one not recognize domestic terrorism?**

Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc. PO Box 7, Olney, Maryland 20830

Approving SB 442 will begin to knock down the *Welcome to Maryland!* sign for these criminals.

The absence of substantial deterrents and inadequate law enforcement in Maryland invites the conspirators of illegal exhibition meet-ups. These unimpeded street exhibitions advertise Maryland as a street takeover haven where laws about anything and everything don't matter so much. *Look everyone, Maryland tolerates destruction and disruption. Don't mind innocent lives at risk because an ambulance cannot reach them...and shrug-of-the-shoulders that a small business owner loses an entire evening's or weekend's revenues.*

These illegal rallies pop up with no warning and create havoc within minutes – while the Maryland General Assembly continues its deliberations well into three years.

The Time is Now. Please Take The SB 442 Road Towards A Solution.

SafeRoadsMD agrees with SB 442's sponsors that **the best answer is to markedly increase sanctions to deter criminal behavior.**

Cross-filed with HB 601, the strengthened and, importantly, enforced sanctions of SB 442 will send a powerful message that Maryland lawmakers intend to restore safety and calm on roads and in communities: Continued roadway disruptions will not be tolerated, and violators will suffer significant penalties. Increase the cost of illegal and unruly harmful behavior and begin to make it disappear.

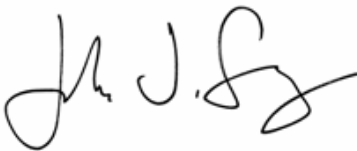
Maryland Lawmakers Can Create a Maryland Road Safety Legacy!

As we've shared with the Judicial Proceedings Committee in the past regarding road safety legislation: Is it possible that the Maryland General Assembly, with JPR's leadership, could boldly take a preeminent role during this 2024 session by sending the message to the public and the legal system that Maryland lawmakers put 100% into ensuring that road safety comes first? Can the Maryland General Assembly join with Governor Moore to ensure that **no one and nothing's left behind in making roadway safety a #1 priority?**

You Can Do It!

We thank you both and the Judicial Proceedings Committee for your review of our position, and urge you to submit a favorable recommendation and support for SB 442.

Sincerely,

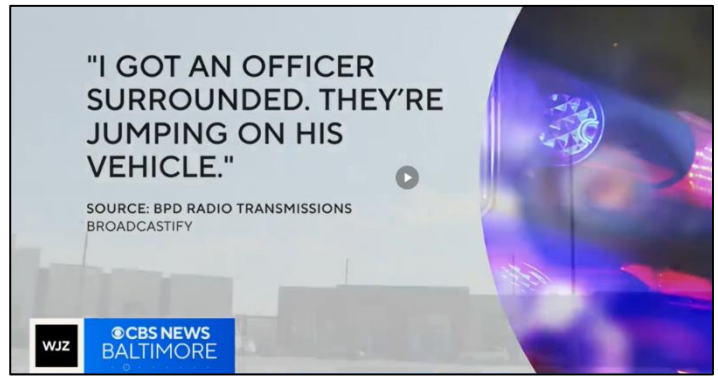


John J. Seng
Chair

Attachments: *They're Setting Our Roads On Fire! Maryland 2023*
Exhibition Driving Spree, Request – Exhibition Driving Bills – January 2024

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Senator Pamela Beidle, Senator Malcolm Augustine, Senator Dawn Gile
Delegate Mary Lehman
Ragina Ali, AAA MidAtlantic
SafeRoadsMD *Coalition* Board of Directors

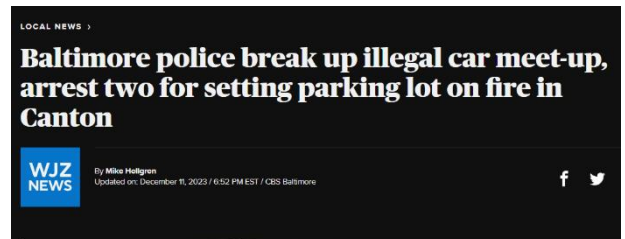
Please Support Maryland Street Racing and Exhibition Driving Legislation Recently Introduced In The 2024 Maryland General Assembly.



SafeRoadsMD (Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc.) is helping the sponsors of two new bills cross-filed in the Senate (SB 442) by Sen. Pamela Beidle (District 32) and in the House (HB 601) by Del. Mary Lehman (District 21) to address the growing preponderance of illegal street racing, exhibition driving and car meet-ups on Maryland roads, city centers and shopping plazas. Your advocacy to support safer roadways is crucial.



Building upon previous legislation, this new set of bills aims to more strongly deter prohibited acts such as engaging in racing, speeding or other exhibition driving, especially that which causes serious bodily injury to another person. **To sample the road violence, hazards and disruption, please click on the html links at each of the images in this document.** Contact John Seng JSeng@SafeRoadsMD.org to share your willingness to advocate.



THEY'RE SETTING OUR ROADS ON FIRE!

Q: WHY DOES MARYLAND ATTRACT CRIMINAL RAMPAGE ROAD VIOLENCE?

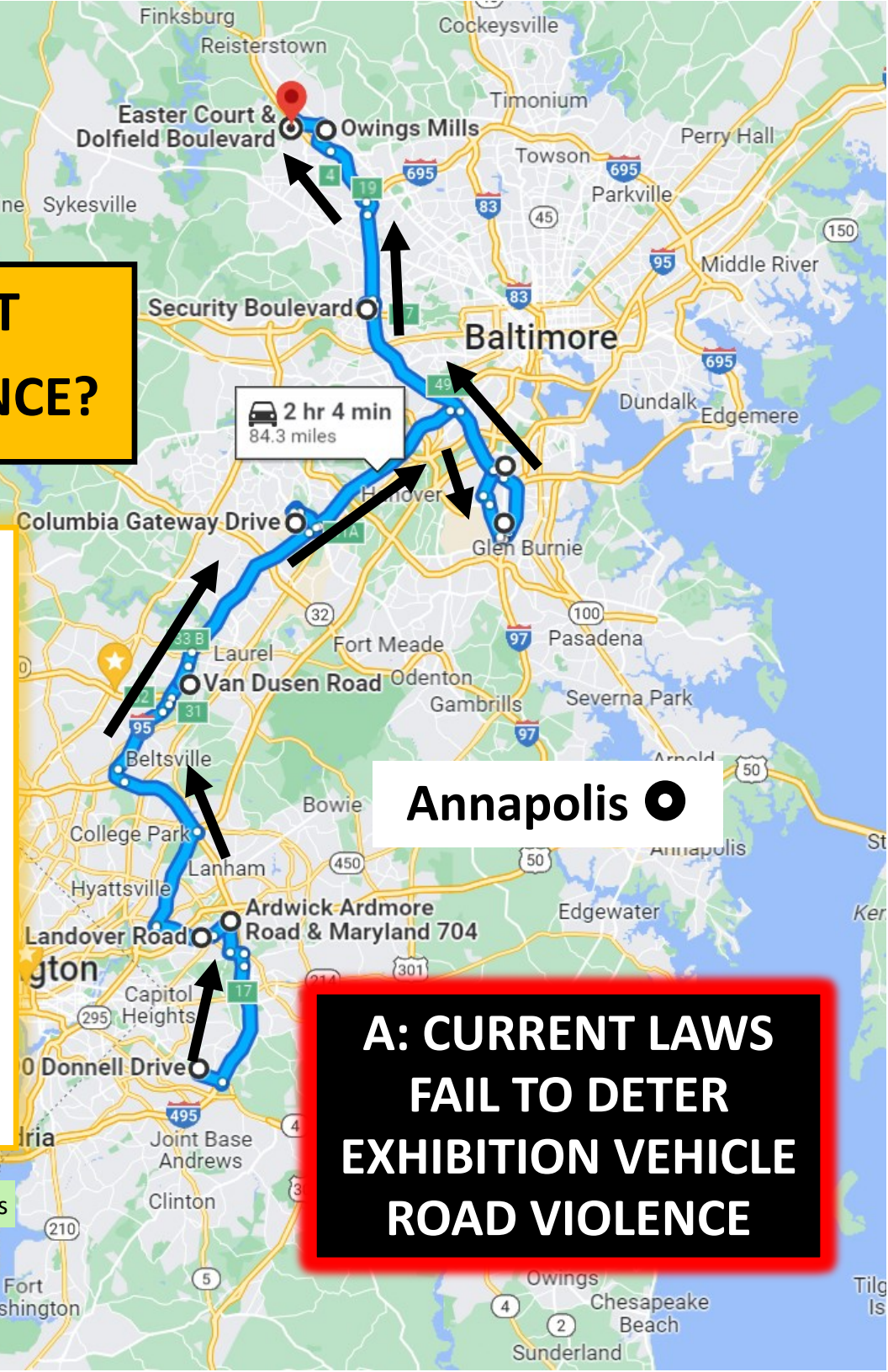
Maryland Roads Criminal Caravan Weekend

Sat-Sun March 25-26, 2023 Road Violence Chaos At a Glance

An organized, massive caravan plowed through Maryland: Night-time street takeovers, exhibition driving, blocked intersections, treacherous maneuvers, 300-plus size crowds, rings of gasoline fires, people hanging on cars, pedestrian struck by car, crowd members launching fireworks at police, burnouts, multiple automobiles racing, stolen vehicles & stunt car crashes.

- 8-1/2 hours non-stop mayhem, covering 85 miles, 10 different locales
- 4 counties (Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Howard, Baltimore)
- Hundreds of vehicles & people from Virginia, Maryland & elsewhere
- Cost to Maryland taxpayers: Untold tens of thousands of dollars in overtime pay & other extraordinary costs and safety risks for law enforcement & other first responders, public roads & private property damage; costs of disruption to Maryland communities and motorists

Source: Manis Canning & Associates



A: CURRENT LAWS FAIL TO DETER EXHIBITION VEHICLE ROAD VIOLENCE