PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Illegal street racing, organized exhibitions of speed, and the reckless driving that ensues, have consistently been issues in the City of Los Angeles. These activities have become more widespread in recent years, as modern technology and social networking makes it easy for groups to quickly organize illegal races and exhibitions of speed on short notice. With the recent deaths of two spectators at an illegal race in Chatsworth, the City must work to fully understand this problem, and what efforts are being undertaken by the Police Department (LAPD) to curb these dangerous activities.

Enforcement efforts should also be stepped up, before more people are killed while participating in or watching illegal street races and exhibitions of speed. Vehicles used in these events should be impounded for the maximum amount of time allowed under California law. The City should look into ways of discouraging participation in illegal races and exhibitions of speed, such as impounding the cars of spectators, stepping up patrols in areas where these events are common, and issuing Public Service Announcements on the law and LAPD's enforcement efforts. The City should also study what types of mitigations can be put in place to make streets less attractive for street racing, while not affecting regular users.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Police Department (LAPD) report on the procedures needed to begin impounding vehicles used in illegal street racing, exhibitions of speed, and reckless driving, for the maximum amount of time allowed under the law.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the City Attorney be requested to draft an ordinance that would allow LAPD to seize and auction or destroy cars that are involved in street racing, exhibitions of speed, and reckless driving that leads to great bodily injury or death.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the LAPD report on: the work of its Task Force assigned to this issue and what resources are needed, if any, to step up policing and outreach efforts related to illegal street racing and exhibitions; on the department's efforts to quantify and understand how often these events occur and where they are occurring through COMPSTAT; and, its efforts to discourage this behavior and to inform the public of the dangers of illegal street racing, exhibitions of speed, and reckless driving, including on its use of Public Service Announcements.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the LAPD, with the assistance of the City Attorney's Office, report on the feasibility of impounding vehicles owned by spectators at illegal street races and exhibitions, as a way of discouraging individuals from attending these events.

I FURTHER MOVE, that the Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Street Services report on mitigations that can be implemented to discourage illegal racing and exhibitions, while not having a negative impact on commuters and other road users.

Presented by: MITCHELL ENGLANDER Councilmember, 12th District

Seconded by: