

MOTION

The issue of “sideshows” has plagued California and the City of Los Angeles for years. Sideshows—or street takeovers, as the City calls them—originated in the Bay Area of Northern California, and got their name by being the literal side show to drag races. A takeover usually consists of people meeting up at vacant lots, intersections, or roadways, typically in the middle of night, to perform car stunts in front of an audience.

The Police Department’s (LAPD’s) Street Racing Task Force consists of specially trained officers who are tasked with combatting illegal racing, sideshows, and spectating that has been creating chaos in numerous communities around the City.

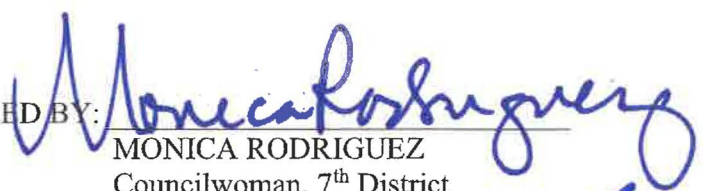
It is extremely dangerous for law enforcement to try and stop a street takeover because the cars are often traveling at excessive speeds that endanger the public. Officers are met on scene with rocks, fireworks, bottles, and even firearms. According to the LAPD, street racing and takeovers peaked in 2020 with 912 incidents; and there were 319 incidents in 2019, 794 incidents in 2021, 822 incidents in 2022, and 482 incidents in 2023.

There is clearly a need for the City to review existing laws designed to control street racing and takeovers and determine their efficacy. In this manner, law enforcement can take effective action against those who engage in these activities and ensure public safety.

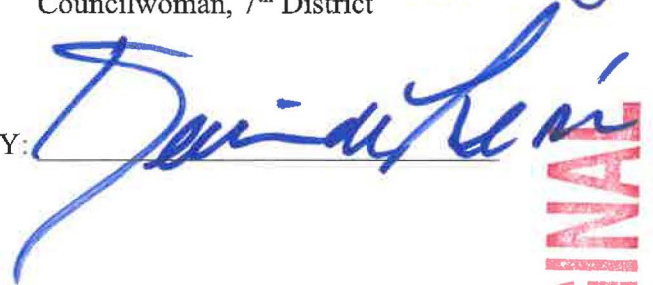
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department be instructed to report to the Council on existing laws—both state laws and local laws—pertaining to street racing, takeovers, and sideshows and their efficacy.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Police Department be instructed to report on any potential modifications to these laws which may assist in controlling and mitigating street racing, takeovers, and sideshows.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



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