



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** July 10, 2023
SUBJECT: Discussion of proposed ordinance regulating street racing and reckless driving exhibitions.
PRESENTER: Mike Young, Interim Police Chief

SUMMARY:

Staff will discuss a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 54 of the Code of Ordinances to regulate street racing and reckless driving exhibitions. The proposed ordinance will provide an enforcement mechanism for spectators or individuals who participate in the preparation of these street racing or reckless driving exhibitions, commonly referred to as “takeover” events.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Over the past few years, street racing and takeover events have become more prevalent across the DFW Metroplex. In these situations, large groups of individuals engage in street racing, as well as blocking large intersections so that other vehicles can perform reckless driving stunts such as drifting, doing burnouts, and driving in doughnuts within the intersection. Typically, attendees and participants gather in areas near where the takeover event will be held prior to the involved vehicles arriving at the intersection. In some instances, spectators will enter the intersection for the vehicle to drive around. The attending subjects are also known to display and fire guns, shoot paintballs at responding police and police vehicles, throw items, and jump on police vehicles.

Various state laws prohibit operators of these vehicles from racing on public streets, obstructing highways or passageways, or interfering with a peace officer’s investigation of racing or reckless driving exhibitions. However, as has been demonstrated at the numerous “takeover” events throughout the country and in the DFW metroplex, spectators at these exhibitions are often complicit in this conduct, but their actions don’t rise to the level of interference with an investigation. Spectators typically record the illegal conduct in order for it to be shared on the internet and will often harass officers attempting to disperse the crowd. This new ordinance will provide officers with an enforcement option to discourage spectators from participating in these events that threaten the public health and safety of our citizens.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend submission of an ordinance regulating street racing and reckless driving exhibitions to City Council for consideration at a future date.