

MOTION

Despite recent changes to the Los Angeles Municipal Code bolstering the law intended to deter street racing, too many of our citizens remain exposed to the grave threat to their lives and safety posed by ongoing street racing. This threat is particularly serious in the Valley where the many long, wide, straight streets are viewed by street racers as ready-made impromptu drag strips.

The Los Angeles City Council has made a valiant effort to stop street racing by increasing fines, making it a misdemeanor to be a spectator and by authorizing confiscation of vehicles involved. Notwithstanding these dramatic measures, street races in the Valley continue to kill.

On Wednesday, September 01, 2004, apparently on the spur of the moment, an 18 year-old decided to race another young motorist on Victory Boulevard in the Third Council District. The tragic crash-scene at the finish line in this race was a blazing inferno with the 18 year-old boy dead inside his car. There is no way to know how many other lives were placed at risk during this brief contest.

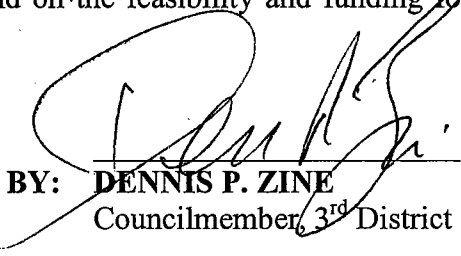
These spontaneous street races are the most challenging to combat. Unlike organized street races, which often afford law enforcement advance notice and time to act effectively to protect the public, spontaneous races give no such advance notice or opportunity to protect. The only tool we have to protect the public from the daily dangers of spontaneous street racing is a visibly increased presence of law enforcement on Valley streets.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council respectfully ask Chief William Bratton to deploy more officers to the Valley for additional traffic patrols with the specific objective of combating street racing and if overtime is needed, to look to the Police Department's overtime-sworn account.

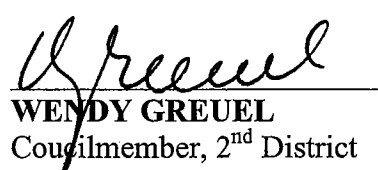
I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department be requested to explore the feasibility and funding for an Anti-Street Racing Awareness Campaign similar to the Los Angeles Police Department's Drunk Driving Campaign.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department be requested to report to the Public Safety Committee within 45 days on the feasibility of deployment of additional traffic patrols in the Valley especially in known hot spots and on the feasibility and funding for an Anti-Street Racing Awareness Campaign in the Valley.

AP



PRESENTED BY: DENNIS P. ZINE
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SECONDED BY: WENDY GREUEL
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