



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 10, 2003

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: APPLYING THE BRAKES TO ILLEGAL STREET RACING (District: All)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Illegal street racers cannot plead ignorance about the consequences of their actions. Far too many people, including innocent victims, have been hurt or killed by the actions of street racers throughout San Diego County. Illegal racers know that numerous crashes, injuries and fatalities have recently occurred. They know that what they are doing is both illegal and very dangerous. Yet they still do it. Illegal street racers still consciously choose to put themselves and other in harm's way.

Approval of this item would initiate efforts to provide authority for the permanent confiscation of vehicles used in illegal street racing, hold law enforcement agencies harmless for confiscating vehicles used for illegal street racing, and increase the penalties for illegal street racing.

Recommendation(s)

VICE CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SHERIFF KOLENDER:

1. Direct the CAO to draft a letter for the Chair's signature to our State legislative delegation requesting changes to State law so that law enforcement officials may take permanent possession of vehicles used for illegal street racing and that law enforcement agencies are held harmless for confiscating vehicles used for illegal street racing, and include this in the County's legislative program.
2. Direct the CAO to draft a letter for the Chair's signature to our State legislative delegation requesting changes to State law to strengthen the penalties for illegal street racing, as it relates to reckless driving, vehicular manslaughter and murder, and include this in the County's legislative program.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this request.

BACKGROUND:

SUBJECT: APPLYING THE BRAKES TO ILLEGAL STREET RACING (District: All)

The prevalence of illegal street racing in the San Diego region has become an epidemic. Families and communities have been devastated by senseless contests between drivers, particularly young drivers. Illegal street racers cannot plead ignorance about the consequences of their actions. Far too many people, including innocent victims, have been hurt or killed by the actions of street racers. Illegal racers know that numerous crashes, injuries and fatalities have recently occurred. They know that what they are doing is both illegal and very dangerous. Yet they still do it. Illegal street racers still consciously choose to put themselves and others in harm's way.

Even though there has been a recent effort to decrease in the occurrence of illegal street racing in San Diego and increase in the number of citations issued for street racing, the races and accompanying deaths and injuries have not been eliminated. There is also concern that the illegal street racing that has been prevalent in the City of San Diego will move into other areas of the County as a result of the City of San Diego's recent actions to counter street racing.

In order to continue the efforts to completely eliminate the occurrence of illegal street racing throughout San Diego County, it's important for all local law enforcement officials to have every tool necessary to crack down on these individuals. We can assist our law enforcement community by changing State law so that law enforcement officials may take permanent possession of vehicles used for illegal street racing and that law enforcement agencies are held harmless for confiscating vehicles used for illegal street racing.

In addition to the ability to permanently confiscate their vehicles, the penalties for street racing need to be strengthened. Illegal street racers need to know that they will be severely punished for their reckless behavior. At a minimum, it should be a felony for participating in an illegal street race. Even further, if the street race results in the injury or death of another individual, the punishment should fit the crime. State law needs to be changed to strengthen the penalties.

These actions will allow the County to pursue necessary changes at the State level to allow of our local law enforcement officials to address the ongoing and dangerous phenomenon of illegal street racing in the San Diego region. We urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Vice Chairwoman

WILLIAM B. KOLENDER
Sheriff

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s):

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors, District Two
San Diego County Sheriff's Department

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Name

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____

SUBJECT: APPLYING THE BRAKES TO ILLEGAL STREET RACING (District: All)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

SUBJECT: APPLYING THE BRAKES TO ILLEGAL STREET RACING (District: All)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT:

PROGRAM:

PROPOSAL:

			FUTURE YEARS ESTIMATED BUDGET OF PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year
Direct Cost				
Revenue/Other Offset				
NET GENERAL FUND COST				
Staff Years				

Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

Space-Related Impacts: Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements? Yes N/A

Support/Other Departmental Impacts: Yes N/A

Remarks: Yes N/A