



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

George Chavez, City Manager

Assemblymember Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 6310
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2000 (Gabriel) Motor vehicle speed contests and exhibitions of speed: offstreet parking facilities - Support

Dear Assemblymember Friedman,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our **SUPPORT** position **AB 2000**, which would make it a crime for a person to engage in a motor vehicle speed contest in an off-street parking facility or an exhibition of speed in an off-street parking facility, or to aid or abet therein. Last year, the legislature passed AB 3, which sought to combat the alarming rise in street racing in California. **AB 2000** seeks to expand on the parity achieved in AB 3 and prohibits the exhibition of motor vehicle speed in a parking lot, if the violation occurred as part of a sideshow.

Last year alone, CHP reported over 25,000 calls involving exhibition of speed and speed contests. Over the past five years, CHP reported a nearly 300 percent surge in exhibition of speed citations. However, not all exhibition of speed cases end in just citations. According to CHP, 47 percent of these crashes result in injury, 42 percent result in property damage, and 11 percent result in death.

According to the Los Angeles Times in 2019, there have been 179 deaths in Los Angeles County where illegal speed contests were suspected as the cause of the accident since 2009. The deadliest year on record was 2007, with 18 fatal crashes. From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017, there were a total of 38 fatalities where illegal speed contests were implicated in the cause of death. Overall, 47 percent of fatalities are the suspected racer, 27 percent are the passenger, 14 percent are an uninvolved motorist, 6 percent are pedestrians, and 5 percent are spectators.

In 2019, the City of Beverly Hills analyzed how incidents of reckless driving and sideshow incidents involving vehicles could be reduced. Due to state law, the City was only able to adopt an ordinance penalizing spectators at illegal speed contests and sideshow incidents. Even with the adoption of this

ordinance, our City still experiences several reckless driving incidents a year, placing our community members at great risk.

Statewide law enforcement groups have identified driver's license suspensions as an effective tool for deterrence for illegal street racing activity. In 2019, California courts ordered 349 driver's license suspensions for speed contests. Of those cases, the recidivism rates dropped by 99 percent. **AB 2000** builds on this knowledge by allowing courts to issue license suspensions upon conviction of exhibition of speed in a parking lot, if the violation was a part of a sideshow.

As illegal street racing and sideshows become more prevalent problems statewide, **AB 2000** provides courts with a critical and proven tool to deter individuals from engaging in sideshows.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2000**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Chavez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Chavez, City Manager
City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, 45th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange