

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

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**Community Safety: Updates on Addressing Illegal Street Takeovers, Side Shows, and Street Races**

In the last couple of years, the streets of the City of Los Angeles (City) and the County of Los Angeles (County) has been overwhelmed with dangerous and illegal street takeovers that cause damage to roadways, vandalism, arson, and place participants and spectators at high risk for serious injuries and even death. These activities are not passive, rather, involve dangerous and reckless driving and maneuvering of vehicles, many times with amateur drivers behind the wheel. Spectators may think they will not be harmed by merely watching, however, there have been incidents when a driver loses control, and a vehicle runs them over or drivers and passengers are injured due to colliding into objects or people.

Some recent examples show the frequency, magnitude in crowd and harm these incidents cause:

- On July 1, 2024, a Los Angeles Metro bus was vandalized with graffiti during a

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street takeover, involving at least 50 vehicles, that took place in downtown Los Angeles at Flower Street and Olympic Boulevard.<sup>1</sup>

- Two days prior, on June 29, 2024, in downtown Los Angeles, in the intersection of West 18<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, near the 10 Freeway, a street takeover, involving 50 vehicles, brought a crowd of hundreds that resulted in two vehicles burned with unknown damage and injuries.<sup>2</sup>
- On June 21, 2024, in unincorporated East Los Angeles, the California Highway Patrol shut down a street takeover in Whittier Boulevard after a vehicle was struck by fireworks and caught on fire.

Unfortunately, the street takeovers go beyond just the reckless driving and vandalism and one recent incident, on June 10, 2024, led to 50 people burglarizing an Auto Zone located at Century Boulevard and Hoover Street resulting in thousands of dollars in damage and stolen goods.<sup>3</sup>

Earlier this year, four spectators who were “standing at a nearby Arco gas station were struck by gunfire”<sup>4</sup> watching an illegal street takeover. Law enforcement have made arrests following these street takeovers, impounded hundreds of vehicles, and have issued hundreds of citations as well, like after the January 28, 2024, street takeover on the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, involving dozens of vehicles.<sup>5</sup>

According to law enforcement agencies, these street takeovers continue to increase, especially in the early months of 2024. For example, “[m]ore than 176 street

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<sup>1</sup> [Street takeover in downtown LA leaves Metro bus vandalized – Daily News](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-06-29/street-takeover-in-downtown-l-a-leaves-two-cars-in-flames>

<sup>3</sup> [Video shows group ransacking L.A. AutoZone after street takeover - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> <https://abc7.com/street-takeovers-cars-impounded-compton-south-los-angeles/14369197/>

racers were reported between January and March, up nearly 50% from the same period in 2023, and the number of takeovers rose 2% to 190[%]...”<sup>6</sup>

The City and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) created a pilot program where officers are deployed to designated hot spots and also has street racing task forces, however, vehicle impounding, citations, and even installing physical barriers and other obstructions have largely proved ineffective in deterring illegal street takeovers.<sup>7</sup> The Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) is also part of task forces and has its own to address these incidents in unincorporated areas of the County.

Last year, the County Board of Supervisors (Board) supported a motion<sup>8</sup> to address these takeovers and racing and more than a decade ago, adopted county codes to discourage illegal behavior. The Board is due to receive a report back from LASD and relevant departments with recommendations, however, in the meantime, the Board and public needs to receive updates and reassurances that illegal street takeovers are being addressed by LASD and its other enforcement and prevention partners.

Additionally, given that there may be youth who are involved as drivers or spectators, ensuring that we are thinking broadly and comprehensively, the Department of Youth Development should be included on how we can better engage with them and deter them from engaging in illegal and dangerous activities.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/street-races-takeovers-on-the-rise-in-early-2024/3438592/>

<sup>7</sup> [LA still struggling to stop street takeovers – NBC Los Angeles](#)

<sup>8</sup> [183770.pdf \(lacounty.gov\)](#)

1. Request the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, California Highway Patrol, and direct Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, the Directors of the Departments of Public Works, Regional Planning, the Office of Violence Prevention, and the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission to provide the Board with a verbal presentation at the July 30, 2024 Policy and Presentation Board meeting on:
  - a. The report back in response to the September 12, 2023 motion and
  - b. Updates on:
    - i. What steps the Department has taken and will take; and
    - ii. How it is working with the Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and with support from the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the other law enforcement agencies.
2. Direct the Department of Youth Development to present to the Board, verbally, at the July 30, 2024 Policy and Presentation Board meeting with recommendations on, at minimum:
  - a. How to deter youth and young adults from participating in illegal street takeovers and
  - b. Parental engagement and education.

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