

October 18, 2022

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

Safe Cruising in Unincorporated Los Angeles County

Recently passed, ACR 176 (Luz Rivas) celebrates the history and culture of cruising and encourages local officials and law enforcement to work with local car clubs to conduct safe cruising events. Cruising is the custom of leisurely driving on urban boulevards in dropped and dolled-up vehicles, which includes meetups of lowrider, vintage, and custom vehicle owners. It can occur as gatherings where cars are parked and owners show off their cars and admire other cars, or as one-off cruises where people gather and drive their cars through the streets; cruising in some form has been popular in California since the first American teenagers obtained vehicles in the 1930s. Cruising along a specific route became popular after World War II with individuals of Mexican heritage driving lowriders in southern California towns, and cruising rapidly became a popular activity among teenagers.

The West Coast style vintage lowrider car is embedded throughout popular culture and is frequently featured in films, music videos, video games, museums, marketing, and the digital NFT art world; and the fountainhead of lowrider culture is Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles. Whittier Boulevard is among the most famous cruising strips in California.

The culture of car clubs is growing. Many of the car clubs are often engaged with their communities and collaborate with local law enforcement and elected officials to conduct toy

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drives, fundraisers, and other philanthropic activities. Car clubs have participated in COVID-19 vaccine drives, raised money for local causes, raised awareness about the census count, engaged in activism, and advocated for the community.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works in consultation with the Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol in 90 days to develop a plan, as well as a summary of multi-lingual education and outreach strategies, that encourages work with local car clubs, stakeholders, and community members to conduct safe and organized cruising events in the unincorporated areas of the County.

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