

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR  
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

**NOTICE**

April 2, 2021

8.1

**TO:** All Department Personnel

**FROM:** Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

**SUBJECT:** STREET RACING TAKEOVER - BEST PRACTICES

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Notice is to prepare Department personnel to effectively and safely respond to illegal street racing takeover events and explain enforcement and/or disruption tactics. These events are inherently dangerous. Emphasis shall be placed on public and officer safety.

**BACKGROUND**

Social media has fueled street racing takeovers and the Department has noticed a significant increase in street takeover activity since the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants favor high-profile locations using dangerous acts. Groups frequently takeover entire intersections using vehicles and spectators to block off all four quadrants of an intersection. Organizers encourage participants to remain in intersections to prevent police from disrupting the activity or taking enforcement action. Police vehicles that have over-penetrated groups have been vandalized and spectators have attempted to remove officers from the police vehicles. On occasions, participants have used laser pointers to impair responding officers' vision.

**OPERATIONAL RESPONSE**

The Incident Commander (IC) should gather intelligence, establish objectives, assemble resources, isolate the area, and implement a coordinated response. The IC should designate a route of egress for participants to ensure vehicle traffic leaves the impacted intersection in a single direction.

**Planning / Intelligence**

Intelligence may be gathered from a variety of sources of information.

- Intelligence may be obtained via various opensource social media accounts.
- Traffic Division, Street Racing Task Force personnel may assist with gathering intelligence for pre-planned events.
- Community members can be a valuable source of information concerning spontaneous or pre-planned events.
- Street racing groups often favor specific locations on a repetitive basis.

- Major events tend to adhere to historical patterns. For instance, large events may recur on a monthly or annual basis.
- During spontaneous events, the IC should request that a Department Airship respond to provide an aerial assessment of crowd size, crowd demeanor, crowd location, number of vehicles, and number of participants. The airship may help to identify the best route for participant egress.

### **Operational Structure**

The IC should be promptly identified. It is recommended that the IC establish three branch directors for Traffic Control, Vehicle Interception, and Crowd Management. The IC may designate additional branch directors, such as an outside agency liaison, force protection, or reserve squads, as needed.

### **Objectives**

The IC should establish objectives. Objectives may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Traffic Control
  - Isolate Area.
  - Prevent participants from reassembling upon egress.
- Vehicle Interception
  - Should be staged along designated route of egress.
  - May be utilized to detain or arrest specific violators as they exit the area.
  - May be utilized to prevent the group from re-assembling at another location.
- Crowd Management
  - Establish contact with event organizer if possible – attempt to gain voluntary compliance.
  - If warranted, declare unlawful assembly and issue dispersal order.
  - Transition to Crowd Control Tactics, consistent with existing policy, to disperse crowd and arrest violators.

### **Resources**

The IC should ensure that requested resources assemble at a designated staging area prior to responding to the incident. At the request of the IC, the following personnel may be requested to facilitate response:

- Air Support Division – Airship
  - May be used for pre-planning.
  - May be used to aid in the identification of vehicles which are subject to enforcement stops, based on unlawful activity, after a takeover is disrupted.
- Mobile Field Force (MFF)
- Motor Strike Team
  - May be utilized for enforcement stops along route of egress.

- May be utilized to dissuade groups from assembling through high visibility patrols in advance or following street racing takeovers.
  - Should not be utilized for crowd control.
- Outside Agency Support
  - California Highway Patrol.
  - Adjacent Law Enforcement Agencies who may be impacted by the event.
- Official Police Garage (OPG)
  - Consider staging OPG towing resources in a safe location to support multiple requests for vehicle impounds.

### **Operational Tactics**

It is critical that an IC be identified and immediately assume command. The IC should consider implementing the following strategies and tactics:

- Assess scene – request Department Airship to gather intelligence.
- Assemble resources at Code-Alpha or Staging Area.
  - When responding to street takeovers, it is important for lone units not to enter the intersection where the activity is taking place.
- Ensure personnel are properly equipped.
  - Responding personnel should be equipped with MFF equipment.
  - Responding personnel should be equipped with Department issued laser protective eye glasses.
- Communications Plan – Request tactical frequency.
- Isolate Impacted Area – Traffic Control Branch.
- Establish Route of Egress for Participants.
- Stage Vehicle Interception Resources along route of egress.
- Stage OPG tow trucks to facilitate multiple vehicle impounds.
- Deploy crowd management resources.
  - Attempt to gain voluntary compliance.
  - If warranted – issue crowd dispersal order.
  - Transition to crowd control tactics if group fails to disperse.
- Communication and liaison with allied agencies.
- Assigned personnel are discouraged from pursuing reckless drivers despite Department policy allowing it. Officers are advised to make a reasonable attempt to obtain a license plate and to seek a judicial seizure warrant. This has proven to be an effective strategy to deter participants.

### **CONCLUSION**

Illegal street racing and illegal street takeovers require a coordinated law enforcement response. A cohesive, well planned response, with sufficient resources, allows the Department to restore order and provide for public safety. Please refer to the attached list of common violations which may be applicable.

All Department Personnel

Page 4

8.1

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Traffic Group, at ( [REDACTED] )



BLAKE H. CHOW, Deputy Chief  
Department Traffic Coordinator  
Transit Services Bureau

DISTRIBUTION "D"

Attachment

APPROVED:



DANIEL RANDOLPH, Commander  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

## **STREET RACING ENFORCEMENT VIOLATIONS**

### **Commonly Used Vehicle Code Sections**

#### **Arrest Sections**

2800.1	Pursuit – Misdemeanor Evading
2800.2	Pursuit – Felony Evading
2800.3	Pursuit – Felony Evading with Injury
23103(a)	Reckless Driving
23109.1(a)(1)	Speed Contest Causing Injury

#### **Citable Sections**

21658(a)	Lane Straddling
21663	Driving on the Sidewalk
21703	Following too Closely
22400(a)	Impeding traffic driving to slow
23109(a)	Speed Contest
23109(b)	Aiding or abetting in speed contest
23109(c)	Exhibition of speed (Participating or Aiding/Abetting)
23123(a)	Driving a vehicle with using a cellphone in no handsfree mode
23123.5(a)	Texting while driving
27001(b)	Unnecessary use of horn
27151(a)	Loud/Modified exhaust
27156(b)	Illegal emissions components or modifications – Must be cleared by State Bureau of Repair Smog referee
27465(b)	Bald Tires

#### **Impound Authorities**

14602.7	Judicial Seizure - 30-Day Hold that shall be used in cases involving Section 23103, 2800.1, 2800.2, & 2800.3 of the California Vehicle Code.
22651(b)	Parked vehicles creating a road hazard (Common during takeovers)
22651(h)	Driver arrested
22651(o)	Registration expired over six months
22651.6	Vehicle was used in a speed contest and driver is arrested.
23109.2(a)	Not more than 30 Days – Used when citing for 23103(a), 23103(b), 23109(a) & 23109(c) of the California Vehicle Code

Note: A spectator vehicle parked is not subject to impound under this authority.

## **Inspections Authorization**

2806 Authorizes an officer to stop a driver and conduct an inspection to determine whether a vehicle is unsafe and is not in compliance with the Vehicle Code.

## **Commonly Used Los Angeles Municipal Code Section**

### **Citable Sections**

47.15(a)(1)	Knowingly present to watch or observe speed contest  (ACE Citation or RFC – Juveniles shall not be issued an ACE)
47.15(b)(2)	Knowingly present as a spectator where preparations are being made for illegal speed contest or exhibition of speed to be conducted on public street.  (ACE Citation or RFC – Juveniles shall not be issued an ACE)
47.15(a)(2)	Knowingly present a spectators Prohibited at Speed Contests & Exhibitions of Speed  (ACE Citation or RFC – Juveniles shall not be issued an ACE)
45.03	Curfew Violation