



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

John A. Mirisch, Mayor

September 25, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1407 (Friedman) Reckless driving: speed contests: vehicle impoundment.
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **AB 1407 (Friedman)** and respectfully request you **SIGN** this measure when it comes before your desk. This bill would allow law enforcement to impound a vehicle for 30 days if the vehicle's registered owner is convicted of reckless driving or engaging in a speed contest while operating the vehicle and require the vehicle to be impounded for a 2nd or subsequent offense.

According to a 2000 study conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration impounding a vehicle is an effective method for reducing driving risks such as reckless driving and street racing. Another more recent study has also shown that vehicle impoundment can reduce recidivism while the vehicle is in custody and to a lesser extent when the vehicle is released. The City of Beverly Hills has recently had issues with illegal street racing that have raised serious public safety concerns. Individuals, often in cars designed for racing or modified for that purpose, illegally race on city streets at very high speeds and place themselves and the public at great risk.

AB 1407 (Friedman) will allow law enforcement to impound a vehicle for 30 days if the vehicle's owner is convicted of reckless driving or engaging in a speed contest and require law enforcement to impound an individual's vehicle for a second or subsequent conviction. This will provide law enforcement with the authority to ensure that drivers who repeatedly place the public in harm's way receive a punishment commensurate with their crime and that serves to make the public safer.

Furthermore, law enforcement will be able to issue a 30-day notice to correct a mechanical or safety violation as it relates to speed contests which will that dangerous modified vehicles are made safer.

The City of Beverly Hills is committed to providing safe streets for its residents and visitors. Illegal speed contests have caused over 179 deaths in Los Angeles County since 2000. Fourteen percent of those deaths are uninvolved motorists with six percent being pedestrians. In order to help protect the public, the City recently adopted an ordinance to allow our Police Officers the ability to cite spectators at these speed contests. Additionally, we explored opportunities to provide for further impoundment of the vehicles used in speed contests; however, state law does not allow cities the ability to have local ordinances that provide stricter consequences for the participants in speed contests.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 1407 (Friedman)**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John A. Mirisch', with a stylized, cursive script.

John A. Mirisch
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman, 43rd Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.