

Street Racing and Proposed Ordinance Changes

**Public Safety Committee
February 10, 2020**

**Assistant Chief Lonzo Anderson
Dallas Police Department**



Presentation Overview

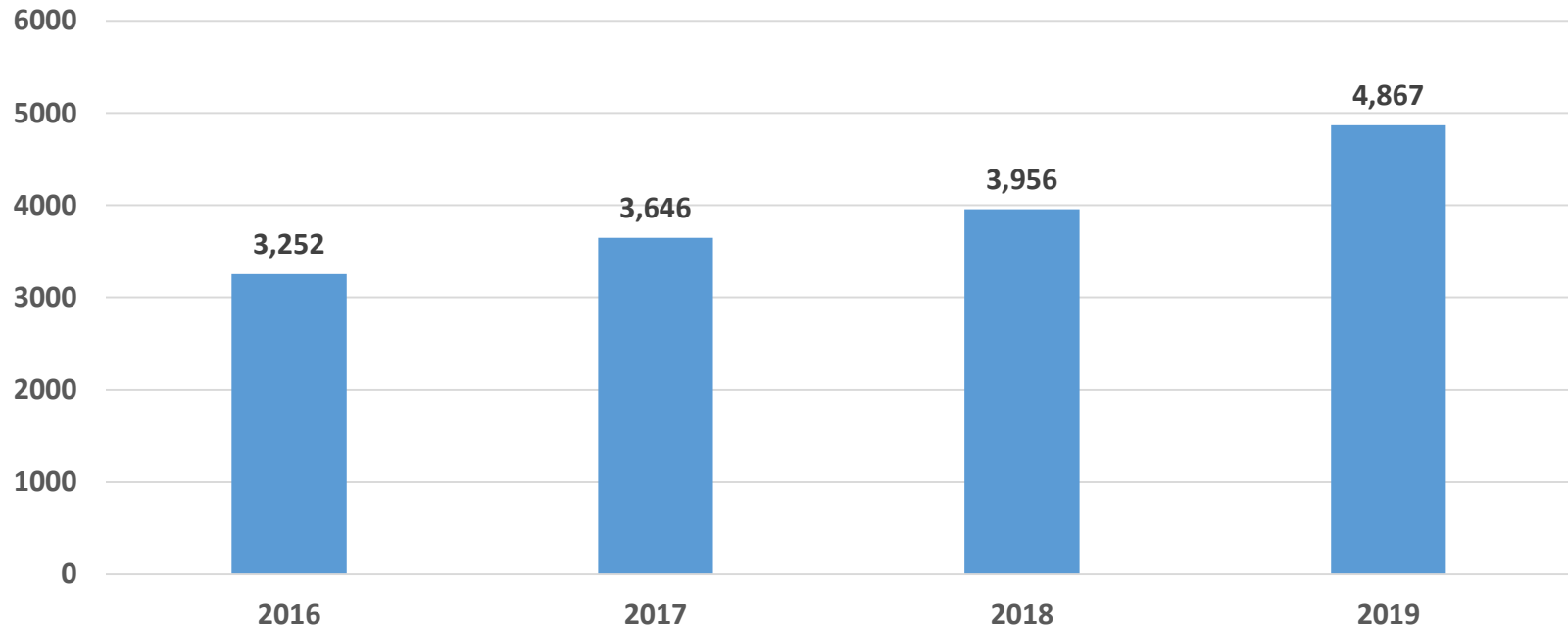
- Background/History of street racing in Dallas
- Purpose of a Speed Task Force
- Issues/Operational Concerns
- Proposed Action (Spectator Ordinance)
- Next Steps

Background/History

- Illegal street races, reckless driving, and “take over” events are a nationwide problem for law enforcement and this community
- Beyond the quality of life disruption, illegal street races result in crashes, property damage, injuries, and deaths

Background/History

Racing and Speeding Calls for Service



Purpose

- To address street racing concerns many divisions dedicate personnel to deter and enforce speeding and racing violations
- In 2019, a patrol speed task force was created to uniformly address street racing in the South Patrol Bureau
- These street racing events average 100 participants

Actual Photos of Dallas Street Racing



Results

- In 2019 the task force:
 - Issued 23,000 citations
 - 9,000 speeding violations
 - 600 muffler noise violations
 - 13,400 other violations
 - 400 arrests
 - 137 felonies
 - Seized 13 guns
 - 65 incidents of narcotics seized
 - Towed 1,400 vehicles
 - Recovered 6 stolen vehicles

Results

- DPD Street Racing Enforcement Teams have successfully reduced speed related traffic fatalities in the southern area of Dallas
- 2018 to 2019
 - City-wide decrease – 28.57%
 - Southwest decrease – 42.86%

Issues/Operational Concerns

- Multiple laws are utilized to address the problem of street racing, some of which include:
 - Texas Traffic Code
 - 545.352: Speed Limits
 - 545.420: Racing on a Highway
 - 545.401: Reckless Driving
 - Texas Penal Code
 - 42.03: Obstructing Highway or Other Passageway
 - Dallas City Code
 - 30-1: Loud and Disturbing Noises

Issues/Operational Concerns

- Though these laws provide a powerful tool to address street racing, there is no law in the City of Dallas to address the large number of spectators that street racing attracts
- Street racing in Dallas thrives on the attendance of spectators from across the metroplex



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Proposed Action/Ordinance

- Multiple cities across the nation have laws that address street racing spectators, some include:
 - San Diego, CA
 - Sacramento, CA
 - Kansas City, MO
 - Albuquerque, NM
 - Milwaukee, WI
- DPD is proposing the creation of a street racing ordinance

Proposed Action/Ordinance

- This ordinance would:
 - Make it an offense to be present at a street race for the purpose of viewing or recording the event
 - Apply to both public property and private property open to the public
 - Include passengers in racing vehicles
 - Possibly allow the pursuit of nuisance abatement against properties that condone street racing events
 - Allow for impounding and/or forfeiting vehicles used for street racing through a vehicle forfeiture process

Staff Recommendation

- Recommend the Public Safety Committee direct staff to draft a street racing ordinance
- Upon completion of the draft, staff will return to this committee for review prior to City Council consideration and approval

Next Steps

- Continue Speeding Task Force
- Encourage private businesses to adopt measures to address the problem
 - No Trespassing signs
 - Limiting after-hours access
 - Installing wheel guards
- Work with Environmental Protection Agency to address car modifications that result in violations and fraudulent inspections

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