

# **Street Racing Briefing**

**Public Safety Committee**

**May 11, 2020**

**Assistant Chief Lonzo Anderson  
Dallas Police Department**

**City Attorney Christopher Caso  
City of Dallas**



# Presentation Overview

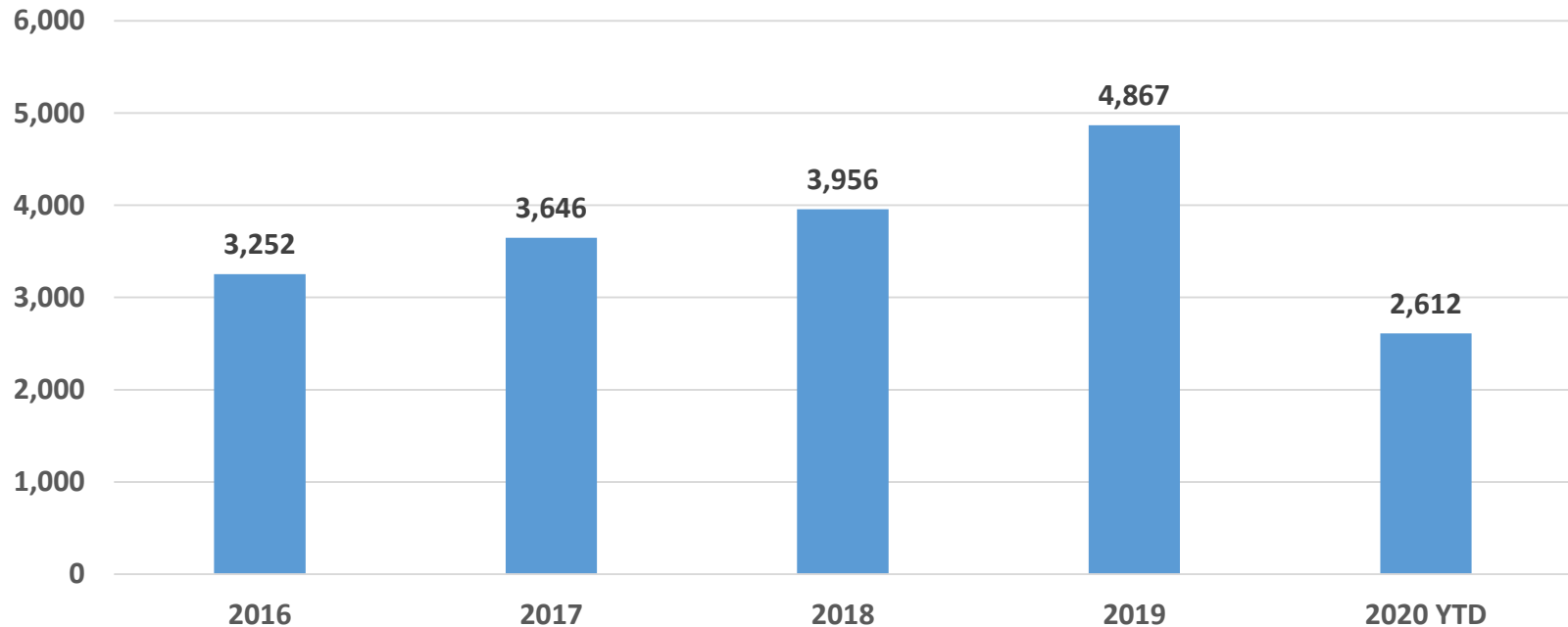
- Background/History of street racing in Dallas
- Purpose of a Speed Task Force
- Issues/Operational Concerns
- Proposed Ordinance
- Recommendation/Next Steps

# 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

# Results

- In 2019, the task force:
  - Issued 23,000 citations
    - 11,605 hazardous violations
    - 11,395 regulatory violations
  - 400 arrests
    - 137 felonies
  - Seized 13 guns
  - 65 incidents of narcotics seized
  - Towed 1,400 vehicles
  - Recovered 6 stolen vehicles
- In 2020 (YTD), the task force:
  - Issued 5,425 citations
    - 1,575 hazardous violations
    - 3,850 regulatory violations
  - 352 arrests
    - 86 felonies
  - Seized 15 guns
  - 29 incidents of narcotics seized
  - Towed 248 vehicles
  - Recovered 10 stolen vehicles

# Results

- DPD Street Racing Enforcement Teams have successfully reduced speed related traffic fatalities in the southern area of Dallas
- 2018 vs 2019
  - City-wide decrease – 28.57%
  - Southwest decrease – 42.86%
- 2019 vs 2020 (YTD)
  - City-wide decrease – 6%
  - Southwest decrease – 0%

# Issues/Operational Concerns

- Large crowds of spectators often gather at the illegal street racing events
- Street racing in Dallas thrives on the attendance of spectators from across the metroplex
- There is no current process to declare a vehicle involved in racing as a nuisance





# Proposed Ordinance: Spectator Participation

- Offenses:
  - Spectators knowingly present at a street race, reckless driving exhibition, or site of preparations for either event
  - Premise owners or operators who knowingly allow a street race, reckless driving exhibition, or preparations for either event to occur on the premises
- Penalty – fine of not more than \$500.

# Impoundment

- Officers have the authority to impound a vehicle for the following reasons (not all inclusive)
  - Dallas City Code 28-4 (a)(11-12)
    - A vehicle is in an accident or stopped by a police officer for a violation and the owner or operator fails to show evidence of financial responsibility (Trans Code 601.053).
  - Dallas Police Department SOP (2103)
    - A vehicle has been involved in an accident and is not drivable; has no proof of financial responsibility; is stolen; is taken for protective custody; is evidence of a crime; the driver is arrested.

\* 2019 - 1400 vehicles towed / 2020 (YTD) - 248 vehicles towed (Speed Task Force)

# Proposed Ordinance: Declaring Nuisance Vehicles

- Nuisance and Abatement Process
  - Vehicle declared a nuisance if:
    - The motor vehicle is used in a street race or reckless driving exhibition;
    - The driver or passenger is registered owner, a member of the immediate family, or lives at the same address as registered owner; and
    - The driver or passenger has a previous conviction for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, or racing on highway.

# Proposed Ordinance: Declaring Nuisance Vehicles

- Nuisance and Abatement Process
  - Notice for Vehicle identified as a nuisance:
    - Notice sent to the legal or registered owner and any lien holder of record via certified mail, return receipt requested;
    - Personal notice to the legal or registered owner at the time of the violation
  - Administrative Nuisance and Abatement
    - If no response to the notice is received within the required deadline, the city attorney shall petition the court for a default judgment to abate the nuisance vehicle

# Proposed Ordinance: Declaring Nuisance Vehicles

- Nuisance and Abatement Process

- Judicial Nuisance and Abatement Process

- If a response to the notice is timely received by the city attorney, the city attorney shall petition the court for an order to abate the nuisance within the deadline, request a hearing date, and send notice of the hearing to the legal or registered owner and any lienholder of record.

- Disposition of Nuisance Vehicle

- Joint property interest owner provides for the vehicle to be released to this person prior to the nuisance and abatement process with proof of the joint interest and valid vehicle registration and execution of a stipulated vehicle release agreement

# Proposed Ordinance: Declaring Nuisance Vehicles

- Nuisance and Abatement Process

- Disposition of Nuisance Vehicle

- Upon an order from the court to abate the nuisance, the vehicle must be sold at a public auction within 60 days of the city receiving title to the vehicle, unless the chief of police determines the vehicle could be used for enforcement of street racing or reckless driving exhibition or any other law enforcement use
    - Upon the chief of police's determination, low valued vehicles must be conveyed to a licensed dismantler or donated to a charitable organization
    - Sale proceeds to be disposed of accordingly: the towing and storage cost related to impoundment, any subordinate lien or encumbrance of record to satisfy any indebtedness, and any remaining proceeds to DPD for enforcement of street racing and reckless driving exhibitions

# Staff Recommendations / Next Steps

- Adopt proposed ordinance
- Place on future agenda for City Council review/approval (June)
- Enforcement of new ordinance into effect no later than July
- Continue Speeding Task Force
- Encourage private businesses to adopt measures to address the problem

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