



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 436 (Alvarez) Vehicles; cruising
City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to AB 436 (Alvarez), This bill proposes to repeal the authority of local governments to regulate cruising, an act that is in contradiction with our City's legislative platform and our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents.

We firmly believe that local authorities, with their intimate understanding of their community's unique characteristics and needs, are best suited to regulate activities like cruising. As a city with a diverse blend of residential, business, and tourist areas, Beverly Hills has long prioritized the efficient and safe flow of traffic. We also value tranquility, especially during evening and nighttime hours, understanding the impact of noise pollution on our residents' wellbeing.

AB 436 poses a threat to our local efforts to manage and regulate cruising effectively. Cruising can exacerbate traffic congestion, disturb peaceful residential neighborhoods, pose risks due to distracted or careless driving, and strain local law enforcement resources. By revoking local authority over cruising, this bill compromises our capacity to address these issues, thereby negatively impacting the quality of life in our city.

The repeal of the prohibition on vehicles modified to have less clearance from the surface than their original design further erodes road safety. Such alterations often endanger both the occupants of these vehicles and other road users, especially in the event of a collision. Additionally, the lowering of the vehicle can cause damage to the undercarriage of the car. This damage could cause fluids, such as oil, gasoline, or transmission fluid, to leak from the vehicle onto the roadway. Ultimately the fluid will end up in storm drains, poisoning the oceans off the coast of California.

Furthermore, our City struggles to prevent street takeovers and side shows. Cruising can be the first indication a street takeover is about to occur and/or eventually lead to a street takeover. Our City continually expresses concerns over reckless driving, street racing, street takeovers, and sideshows. This is a recurring issue which plagues many California communities and causes fatal traffic accidents involving participants and nearby pedestrians. We have even adopted an ordinance whereby we can cite spectators at these events due to the dangers street takeovers pose to people who may be in the area, whether they are present intentionally or unintentionally.

The current Vehicle Code permits local jurisdictions to create rules addressing local transportation and public safety matters, including bicycle operation, the removal of illegally parked vehicles, and cruising. Cruising often results in traffic control issues and congestion, presenting significant logistical challenges for cities and local agencies. While we acknowledge the importance of state legislation, we maintain that cruising regulation should be under the jurisdiction of local authorities who understand their communities' unique requirements and resources, especially due to the diverse nature of California and its cities.

It is for these reasons that the City of Beverly Hills respectfully opposes AB 436 (Alvarez) and requests a "NO" vote when heard in your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian A. Gold', written in a cursive style.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 24th District
The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange