



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1472 (Stern) – Vehicular Manslaughter: Speeding and Reckless Driving
City of Beverly Hills – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to express the City's **SUPPORT for SB 1472 (Stern)** and respectfully request that you **SIGN** this measure into law when it reaches your desk. This measure explicitly gives prosecutors the ability to charge a driver with a felony for participating in excessive speeding, sideshows, or street racing that results in a fatality.

Last year, the United States Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued findings showing that while Americans drove less in 2020 due to the pandemic, an estimated 39,000 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, the largest number of fatalities since 2007. This number represents an increase of about 7.2 percent compared to the 36,096 fatalities reported in 2019.

According to the LA Times in 2019, there have been 179 deaths in Los Angeles County where illegal speed contests were suspected as the cause of the accident since 2009. The deadliest year on record was 2007, with 18 fatal crashes. From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017, there were a total of 38 fatalities where illegal speed contests were implicated in the cause of death. Overall, 47 percent of fatalities are the suspected racer, 27 percent are the passenger, 14 percent are an uninvolved motorist, 6 percent are pedestrians, and 5 percent are spectators.

In 2019, the City of Beverly Hills analyzed how incidents of reckless driving and side show incidents involving vehicles could be reduced. Due to state law, the City was only able to adopt an ordinance penalizing spectators at illegal speed contests and side show incidents. Even with the adoption of this ordinance, our City still experiences several reckless driving incidents a year, placing our community members at great risk.

SB 1472 would curb dangerous driving activity by defining "gross negligence" for purposes of vehicular manslaughter to include, based on the totality of the circumstances, participating in a sideshow, an exhibition of speed, or speeding over 100 miles an hour.

SB 1472 provides law enforcement an additional tool to deter individuals from engaging in all forms and activities related to illegal street racing. For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills request that you take action to **SIGN SB 1472 (Stern)** into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lili Bosse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lili Bosse

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Henry Stern, Senator 27th District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblymember, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange