

**DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC COORDINATOR  
TRANSIT SERVICES BUREAU**

**NOTICE**  
8.1

April 2, 2021

**TO:** All Department Personnel

**FROM:** Department Traffic Coordinator, Transit Services Bureau

**SUBJECT:** STREET RACING TAKEOVER - BEST PRACTICES

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Notice is to prepare Department personnel to effectively and safely respond to illegal street racing takeover events and explain enforcement and/or disruption tactics. These events are inherently dangerous. Emphasis shall be placed on public and officer safety.

**BACKGROUND**

Social media has fueled street racing takeovers and the Department has noticed a significant increase in street takeover activity since the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants favor high-profile locations using dangerous acts. Groups frequently takeover entire intersections using vehicles and spectators to block off all four quadrants of an intersection. Organizers encourage participants to remain in intersections to prevent police from disrupting the activity or taking enforcement action. Police vehicles that have over-penetrated groups have been vandalized and spectators have attempted to remove officers from the police vehicles. On occasions, participants have used laser pointers to impair responding officers' vision.

**OPERATIONAL RESPONSE**

The Incident Commander (IC) should gather intelligence, establish objectives, assemble resources, isolate the area, and implement a coordinated response. The IC should designate a route of egress for participants to ensure vehicle traffic leaves the impacted intersection in a single direction.

**Planning / Intelligence**

Intelligence may be gathered from a variety of sources of information.

- Intelligence may be obtained via various opensource social media accounts.
- Traffic Division, Street Racing Task Force personnel may assist with gathering intelligence for pre-planned events.
- Community members can be a valuable source of information concerning spontaneous or pre-planned events.
- Street racing groups often favor specific locations on a repetitive basis.

- Major events tend to adhere to historical patterns. For instance, large events may recur on a monthly or annual basis.
- During spontaneous events, the IC should request that a Department Airship respond to provide an aerial assessment of crowd size, crowd demeanor, crowd location, number of vehicles, and number of participants. The airship may help to identify the best route for participant egress.

### **Operational Structure**

The IC should be promptly identified. It is recommended that the IC establish three branch directors for Traffic Control, Vehicle Interception, and Crowd Management. The IC may designate additional branch directors, such as an outside agency liaison, force protection, or reserve squads, as needed.

### **Objectives**

The IC should establish objectives. Objectives may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Traffic Control
  - Isolate Area.
  - Prevent participants from reassembling upon egress.
- Vehicle Interception
  - Should be staged along designated route of egress.
  - May be utilized to detain or arrest specific violators as they exit the area.
  - May be utilized to prevent the group from re-assembling at another location.
- Crowd Management
  - Establish contact with event organizer if possible – attempt to gain voluntary compliance.
  - If warranted, declare unlawful assembly and issue dispersal order.
  - Transition to Crowd Control Tactics, consistent with existing policy, to disperse crowd and arrest violators.

### **Resources**

The IC should ensure that requested resources assemble at a designated staging area prior to responding to the incident. At the request of the IC, the following personnel may be requested to facilitate response:

- Air Support Division – Airship
  - May be used for pre-planning.
  - May be used to aid in the identification of vehicles which are subject to enforcement stops, based on unlawful activity, after a takeover is disrupted.
- Mobile Field Force (MFF)
- Motor Strike Team
  - May be utilized for enforcement stops along route of egress.

- May be utilized to dissuade groups from assembling through high visibility patrols in advance or following street racing takeovers.
  - Should not be utilized for crowd control.
- Outside Agency Support
  - California Highway Patrol.
  - Adjacent Law Enforcement Agencies who may be impacted by the event.
- Official Police Garage (OPG)
  - Consider staging OPG towing resources in a safe location to support multiple requests for vehicle impounds.

### **Operational Tactics**

It is critical that an IC be identified and immediately assume command. The IC should consider implementing the following strategies and tactics:

- Assess scene – request Department Airship to gather intelligence.
- Assemble resources at Code-Alpha or Staging Area.
  - When responding to street takeovers, it is important for lone units not to enter the intersection where the activity is taking place.
- Ensure personnel are properly equipped.
  - Responding personnel should be equipped with MFF equipment.
  - Responding personnel should be equipped with Department issued laser protective eye glasses.
- Communications Plan – Request tactical frequency.
- Isolate Impacted Area – Traffic Control Branch.
- Establish Route of Egress for Participants.
- Stage Vehicle Interception Resources along route of egress.
- Stage OPG tow trucks to facilitate multiple vehicle impounds.
- Deploy crowd management resources.
  - Attempt to gain voluntary compliance.
  - If warranted – issue crowd dispersal order.
  - Transition to crowd control tactics if group fails to disperse.
- Communication and liaison with allied agencies.
- Assigned personnel are discouraged from pursuing reckless drivers despite Department policy allowing it. Officers are advised to make a reasonable attempt to obtain a license plate and to seek a judicial seizure warrant. This has proven to be an effective strategy to deter participants.

### **CONCLUSION**

Illegal street racing and illegal street takeovers require a coordinated law enforcement response. A cohesive, well planned response, with sufficient resources, allows the Department to restore order and provide for public safety. Please refer to the attached list of common violations which may be applicable.

All Department Personnel

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If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Traffic Group, at (213) 486-0690.



**BLAKE H. CHOW**, Deputy Chief  
Department Traffic Coordinator  
Transit Services Bureau

APPROVED:



**DANIEL RANDOLPH**, Commander  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

**DISTRIBUTION "D"**

Attachment

## **STREET RACING VEHICLE CODE ENFORCEMENT**

<b><u>VC CODE</u></b>	<b><u>DEFINITIONS</u></b>
2800.1 VC	Pursuit Misdemeanor Evading
2800.2 VC	Pursuit Felony Evading
2800.3 VC	Pursuit Felony Evading with injury
14602.6(a) VC	30 day impound authority for driving on a suspended CALOP
14602.7 VC	Judicial Seizure 30 day hold section which can be used in any case involving 23103, 2800.1, 2800.2, 2800.3 CVC
21658(a) VC	Lane Straddling
21663 VC	Driving on Sidewalk
21703 VC	Following too closely
22400(a) VC	Impeding traffic driving too slowly
22651(b) VC	Impound authority section for vehicles that are parked creating a road hazard unattended during takeovers
22651(h) VC	1 day impound authority for a driver who is arrested
22651(o) VC	Impound authority for registration expired over six months
23103(a) VC	Reckless Driving
23109(a) VC	Speed Contest
23109(b) VC	A person shall not aide or abet in any motor vehicle speed contest
23109(c) VC	A person shall not engage in a motor vehicle exhibition of speed and a person shall not aide or abet
23109.2(a) VC	30 day impound authority which can be used when citing for 23109 (a), 23109 (b), 23109 (c), 23103 CVC
23123(a) VC	Cellphone no hands free
23123.5(a) VC	Texting while driving
27001(b) VC	Unnecessary use of horn
27151(a) VC	Loud/modified exhaust

### **ACE CITE**

- 47.15A(1) LAMC Being knowingly present to watch or observe speed contest. Adults may be issued an ACE citation or RFC. (Juveniles may be arrested and cited on a Traffic Notice to Appear or arrested and issued RFC)
- 47.15A(2) LAMC Being knowingly present as a spectator where preparations are being made for a speed contest. Adults may be issued an ACE citation or RFC. (Juveniles may be arrested and cited on a Traffic Notice to Appear or arrested and issued RFC)