

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****April 13, 2021**

Page 1 of 1

SUBJECT: STREET RACING ORDINANCE

The purpose of this Informal Report is to update City Council on a proposed amendment to the city ordinance to help broaden our enforcement efforts to address the street racing issues in the City of Fort Worth. The proposed amendment will enhance our ability to address street racing and reckless driving exhibitions in order to help curb this illegal activity.

Since November 2019, the Fort Worth Police Department has received approximately 2,500 calls related to street racing or reckless driving exhibitions from citizens all over the City. While the Texas Transportation Code makes street racing and reckless driving illegal and provides punishment for persons engaged in those activities, there is currently no statute prohibiting the gathering of spectators at those illegal events or prohibiting persons from aiding those events on property they own, operate, or control, or the preparation of the events. In most cases, street races attract spectators, whose presence encourages the illegal events and creates an environment in which street racing can flourish. And, as a result, street racing not only endangers the lives of the persons illegally racing, but also endangers the general public and racing spectators.

Adoption of this ordinance will prohibit the gathering of spectators at these illegal events and prohibit persons from aiding these events on property they own, operate, or control, or the preparation thereof within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Worth. The violations will be misdemeanors, and upon conviction a fine of up to \$500.00 will be assessed. An action item to amend the current ordinance will be on the April 20th City Council agenda.

If you have any questions please contact Benjamin Sampract, Sr. Assistant City Attorney at 817-392-7617 or Benjamin.Sampract@fortworthtexas.gov or Assistant Chief Robert Alldredge at 817-392-4131 or Robert.Alldredge@fortworthtexas.gov.

David Cooke
City Manager