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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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March 8, 2022

Kevin De León
Councilmember,
Council District 14

Curren D. Price
Councilmember,
Council District 9

Captain Alfonso Mendoza
Central Traffic Division,
Los Angeles Police Department

Syunik Zohrabyan
Central District Office,
Los Angeles Department of Transportation

Re: Street Takeovers & Racing in Downtown Los Angeles

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regularly held public meeting on March 8, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

As the mecca of car culture, Los Angeles has had a longstanding but tumultuous relationship as it relates to the underground street-racing and takeover scene. The City has taken steps to combat these activities, to curb the tragic loss of life, violent crime, and traumatic injuries that result from these events. However, with the proliferation of the COVID-19 pandemic, these events have dramatically increased in number and scale. Although our community is no stranger to these events, especially in areas such as the Lower Grand Avenue, Industrial / Warehouse Districts, Figueroa, and the Central / Alameda corridors, the rise in such

events and the nuisance resulting from them is at an unprecedented scale - we are however appreciative of the LAPD's continued efforts to control this activity.

Like many communities, Downtown's streets sit on the High Injury Network (HIN) identified by LADOT's Vision Zero program. Despite being the most conducive part of the city for pedestrians, Downtown has had its share of traffic fatalities involving pedestrians along these major corridors. Street racing and takeovers pose astronomical risks to loss of life for both driver, bystander, and pedestrian. These parameters, coupled with the pedestrian nature of Downtown, elevate the risk of fatalities and injuries for our community, especially the unhoused community.

Therefore, DLANC requests the Los Angeles Police Department, through the Central Traffic Division Street Racing Taskforce, to increase street racing abatement efforts during weekend and evening hours.

In addition, DLANC requests Councilmember Kevin De León and Councilmember Curren D. Price to introduce motions into Council to commit overtime funding to LAPD, to exclusively address and combat street racing and takeovers, in their respective portions of Downtown.

DLANC also requests LADOT, in coordination with LAPD and local Council Offices, to install short-term and long-term traffic control devices to deter drivers from attempting to perform car stunts in areas that are disproportionately frequented by such activities.

DLANC recognizes the deployment of LAPD resources as a short-term solution that addresses the immediate urgency of reducing street racing and takeovers in our community, but we urge the City, in concert with the State, to work on more robust legislation and alternative intervention measures to discourage this trend. We are hopeful that any efforts undertaken, can prevent and curb the loss of life, violent crime, and trauma that often follows in the wake of these events.

Sincerely,



Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC



Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

CC:

- LAPD Operations Central Bureau (via email)
- LAPD Central Division (via email)
- LAPD Newton Division (via email)
- Downtown Center Business Improvement District (via email)
- South Park Business Improvement District (via email)
- Fashion District Business Improvement District (via email)
- Historic Core Business Improvement District (via email)
- Figueroa Corridor Business Improvement District (via email)