



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Evidence supports that street racing attracts other illegal activity such as drug use, weapons violations, assaults, theft, gambling, and nuisance crimes (disorderly conduct, trespass, urinating in public, littering, vandalism, etc.). Gang activity is not uncommon amongst the large crowds that gather, which can reach into the hundreds if not thousands. The act of racing itself creates an obstruction to the roadway and inhibits free access for others. This poses a clear and inherent public safety risk.

Street racing can present a nearly insurmountable challenge for the Salt Lake City Police Department. Curbing these events commands vast amounts of resources – resources the city does not have while simultaneously trying to prevent other crimes and/or responding to quality of life issues for the city's visitors and residents alike.

For those who engage in street racing, there is little to no fear of punitive action and even less fear of being caught. As it is nearly impossible for law enforcement to navigate their way through the immense crowds, to the actual offenders – who rarely yield and typically flee. At the same time, there is absolutely no penalty for the crowds who fuel this dangerous activity.

The Salt Lake City Police Department has discovered the deployment of steel construction plates on the roadway to be a great inhibitor of street racing. While this is a useful tool, it is not all encompassing or without difficulty. Logistical and financial limitations prevent widespread and consistent deployment.

I support Senate Bill 53 because it will, among other important actions:

- Increase the penalty – going from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor – for drivers engaged in street racing events,
- Prohibit a person from being spectator or preparing for speed racing (street racing event), and
- Allow law enforcement to seize and confiscate a vehicle that is not street legal that is engaged with a speed race or exhibition of speed on a highway.

I urge the passage of Senate Bill 53.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Brown".

Chief Mike Brown
Salt Lake City Police Department

cc: Administration File