



April 25, 2023

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
1021 O St., Room 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 74 (Muratsuchi) Vehicles: street takeovers, sideshows, and racing (As Amended 3/23/23)

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi,

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for your Assembly Bill 74 which would make it unlawful for a person to knowingly attend, participate in, or aid and abet the commission of a vehicle sideshow or street takeover and seeks to define these terms. This builds on current law which provides for similar penalties for the exhibition of speed and illegal street racing.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

In recent years, sideshows have gained popularity and can involve hundreds of vehicles and thousands of people participating, blocking traffic, and presenting risks to the public's safety. The size of these events makes it difficult for law enforcement to effectively prevent the gatherings from occurring, prepare for impacts, or apprehend those involved and often requires multi-jurisdictional response.

For the past two years, Santa Rosa Police Department has towed over 100 vehicles over the during Sideshow traffic stops. Further, the department has spent tens of thousands of dollars in sideshow enforcement, including overtime costs for upstaffing when an event is occurring or anticipated in Santa Rosa. To respond to the growing danger sideshows, present to our community, the City Council adopted in October 2022 a local sideshow enforcement ordinance aimed at participants, organizers and spectators of sideshows. We believe we need additional state legislation aimed to deter sideshows and protect our community.

In 2021, the legislature passed, and Governor signed, AB 3 [Statutes 2022, Chapter 611] authorizing the courts to suspend an individual's driver's license for 90 days to six months if they determine the violation was during the commission of a motor vehicle sideshow. This punishment expanded upon prior statute for the punishment for participating in a motor vehicle speed contest, which involves at least two drivers racing each other. AB 74 is the logical next step in preventing these dangerous practices to reduce the number of traffic incidents resulting in injury and death by increasing penalties for attending, participating in, or organizing or promoting a vehicle sideshow or street takeover.



These events attract car enthusiasts and curious onlookers, and the threat of legal consequences coupled with enforcement and public education will help deter against attendance for this type of events and gatherings that pose significant public risk. Further, by providing additional penalties to those operating their vehicles in reckless manner at such events and gatherings, this bill would also deter against those presenting the most significant risk to other drivers and onlookers.

As the provisions proposed in AB 74 provide courts leeway to consider extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis in their determinations and application of penalties, this bill offers a common sense supplemental tool for law enforcement and the courts to utilize for the protection of all road users.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter, The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to support this measure. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact our legislative advocate, Alyssa Silhi, with the Renne Public Policy Group, at (916) 505-4978.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

CC: Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Jim Wood
Assemblymember Damon Connolly
Members and staff, Assembly Transportation Committee