



June 8, 2023

Assemblymember David Alvarez  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 436 (Alvarez) Vehicles**

Dear Assemblymember Alvarez:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for your Assembly Bill 436. Assembly Bill 436 removes from the Vehicle Code the ability of a local government to ban cruising. Further, the proposed legislation would repeal the prohibition on operating a passenger vehicle, or commercial vehicle under 6,000 pounds, that has been lowered below a certain point.

NATALIE ROGERS  
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD  
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ  
VICTORIA FLEMING  
JEFF OKREPKIE  
CHRIS ROGERS  
MARK STAPP

The Santa Rosa City Council recently repealed the City's ordinance prohibiting cruising. City Ordinance No. 2713, also known as the Cruising Ordinance, was originally adopted on August 2, 1988 and added Chapter 11-16 to the Vehicle and Traffic Code, prohibiting cruising within the core area of the City. This ordinance was outdated and no longer reflected the values of our community. Additionally, in 2022, Santa Rosa became one of the few cities in California to partner with a group of local car clubs to build its own lowrider patrol car, The Marylou, named after fallen police detective Marylou Armer.

The proposed bill would help bring statewide clarity to cruising and ensure multicultural communities are not targeted for cruising. More recently, cruising has been confused with sideshow activity. Lowriding is not related to sideshow activity. It is about cultural identity, creativity, social change and healing. The motto in the lowrider community is "Low and Slow."

Individuals with their own lowriders say that lowriding is about family, community and a sense of pride in their work. Lowriding is also a form of healing from multi-generational trauma and more recently, a violence prevention strategy. The work that goes into building a lowrider, including the paint and artwork, can be very therapeutic for many involved. It also provides a space within the community to celebrate cultural identity and self-expression.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. The City of Santa Rosa is pleased to support this measure, as reflected by the Council's unanimous vote on June 6, 2023 to support AB 436.



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.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

CC: The Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Roger W. Niello, Vice Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senate District 2  
The Honorable Damon Connolly, Assembly District 12  
The Honorable Jim Wood, Assembly District 2  
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs

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