



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Senator Defronzo, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is Hector Robles, State Representative of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly District covering the South end of Hartford. I am here today in support of H.B. 5262, An Act Concerning the Impoundment of vehicles used for Illegal Street Racing.

For the past fifteen years I have been a sworn member of the Hartford Police Department, eleven years as community service officer. For the past five years I've been the community service officer for the South Meadows neighborhood.

Over the past several years, the Hartford Police Department has been battling the problem of illegal street racing. Typically over the weekend, hundreds of people begin to gather on our city streets, to watch drivers make a wager and do quarter mile racing. Wagers could be for stereo systems, rims, car engines and money.

This causes police officers to be tied up on bogus crimes. For example, many racers that wager a stereo system or rims, and that person loses the race, they report such items as stolen a couple of hours later, to claim it on their insurance policy.

The South Meadows neighborhood is an industrial area. During the work week, crime is at a minimal, but once the weekend arrives, we get calls for shots fired, street robberies, car-jackings and assaults. During the mornings of the weekend, business owners are calling the police department to report property damages and burglaries.

On Murphy Road in Hartford, we have an ambulance company that is located there. Ambulances have had problems exiting their driveway because the spectators and the racers block the driveway, slowing down the response time of the ambulance to go to an emergency.

Illegal street racing is not only occurring in the South Meadows, but also in other parts of the city. Other cities with the racing problem in Connecticut are New Haven, Bridgeport, and Waterbury. Spectators from all over CT and from other states come to the races in Hartford. You could watch it online on YouTube and search for Illegal Street racing in CT. Other states with the problem are California, Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, Ohio and Florida to name a few.

In California, San Diego was the first place to pass an impoundment ordinance, but today California has it as a state law. San Diego has seen a 70% drop in illegal street racing and other states have followed California.

This bill will be an additional tool for law enforcement that could have a impact on the street racing. The bill will require that the vehicle be impounded for 30 days, and then the registered owner could pick it up after paying the thirty day storage fee.

I ask for your support on this legislation.

Thank you



Hector Kobles