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**Testimony of State Representative Al Paolillo, 97th District in support of
HB 6066 An Act Increasing The Penalties For Street Racing
HB 6067 An Act Concerning Emissions Inspections During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 19, 2021 - 10:00 A.M.**

Co-Chair Lemar, Vice Chair Cassano, Vice Chair Simms, Ranking Member Somers, Ranking Member Carney and members of the Transportation Committee, for the record my is Al Paolillo, State Representative for the 97th District, representing the City of New Haven.

I am here to offer testimony on HB 6066 An Act Increasing The Penalties For Street Racing and HB 6067 An Act Concerning Emissions Inspections During the Covid-19 Pandemic

As I am sure Chairman Lemar knows in New Haven we have had a problem with illegal street racing that occurs. In particular there is the stretch of road on Route 80 and Foxon Boulevard, which gets upwards of 40,000 vehicles on it per day where this occurs and also sometimes draws large crowds at night. As Lieutenant Rentkowicz with the New Haven Police Department and Alder Jerry Antunes, who you will hear from today can attest to we receive a voluminous amount of complaints from this neighborhood every week about unsafe, reckless driving, loud noise and large crowds. This is also in an area right next to a middle school and a residential neighborhood. This is a huge concern when it comes to the safety of other motor vehicles on this widely used road and pedestrians, which I know is another important issue the committee is looking into this year along with the safety and speed limits on our municipal roads.

With this legislation I have introduced with Senator Looney, the goal is to increase penalties and appropriate fines to serve as more of a deterrent, but to also give local and state police better ability to enforce the law. You will hear from the New Haven Police Department that part of the problem with the current statute 14-224 is that it's difficult to enforce. It is challenging to establish probable cause when arrests have been made and many times the charges are dismissed. The current statute reads **“No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public highway for a wager or for any race of purpose of making a speed record.”** The issue with this language is that over the years racing has changed where people are no longer are necessarily wagering on races or betting on establishing speed records. Even, if the race is wagered on it is difficult to know who is in charge of the race or who to hold responsible. Because of that we would

like to see this bill language in effect say you that can't operate a motor vehicle upon any public highway for any race, contest or demonstration of speed or skill. This will allow the law to more effectively be enforced.

I am also in support of HB 6067. This bill is very straight forward and came to me at the request of a constituent. It says that the DMV would be required to extend the deadline for emissions inspections and waive any late fees until someone is able to obtain a vaccine. We had noticed that deadlines for licenses and registrations were being extended, but not always emissions. Currently the authority to extend emissions testing is through a specific medical exemption or due to the declared public health emergency. This is just to ensure people can still get their emission tested, but do so in a safe manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony here today and I look forward to working with the Transportation Committee to secure passage of these bills.