VEHICLE SPEED CONTESTS & RECKLESS DRIVING EXHIBITIONS

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Social Services & Public Safety Committee

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LEXINGTON

Louisville's Ordinance

- In 2022, Louisville passed an ordinance setting civil penalties and impoundment of vehicles for taking part, or assisting, in drag racing or vehicle exhibitions on Louisville roadways.
  - $1000 for 1st offense, $2000 for subsequent offenses
  - Impoundment for 6 months
- In the first year, approximately 55 cars were impounded, according to WDRB News.
- Lexington's Urban County Council has received complaints about potential drag racing and other vehicle exhibitions on Lexington's roadways, leading to consideration of a similar civil citation/impoundment mechanism to ensure the safety of the public and protection of our roadways.

Purpose & Scope

- Creates Article XIV, Chapter 18 (Sections 18-191 to 18-197) of the Code of Ordinances
- Prohibits:
  - Vehicle speed contests or reckless driving exhibitions
    - Racing against another vehicle, a clock, or other timing device
    - Burnouts, doughnuts, drifting, or wheelies
  - Promotion of vehicle speed contests or reckless driving exhibitions
  - Obstruction of streets for facilitating vehicle speed contests or reckless driving exhibitions
- Framework for enforcement through civil penalties and impoundment.
- Would take effect January 1, 2027

Penalties/Impoundment

- Imposed on owner of vehicle
- $2,250 for first violation of Section 18-192 or 18-194; $4,500 for each subsequent violation.
- $1,000 for first violation of Section 18-193; $2,000 for each subsequent violation.
- Impounding vehicles
  - 30 days for first violation of Section 18-192 or 18-194
  - 60 days for each subsequent violation
  - Escheatment after 45 days if unclaimed
- The civil penalties will cover the storage fees for the 30/60 days, but owner will also have to pay towing fees, as well as storage fees for additional days.

Enforcement

- Any law enforcement officer can enforce this ordinance through issuance of a civil citation.
- Immediate impoundment or can provide notice of future impoundment
- Notice of Appeal Right
  - At the time of impoundment
  - 7 days after impoundment
  - Upon completion of impoundment period
    - Also informed of potential escheatment of the vehicle if abandoned

Appeals

- Notice of Future Impoundment
  - 14 days to appeal to the Administrative Hearing Board
  - Hearing must be within 30 days after request
- Impoundment
  - Has 7 days after receipt of the second letter to appeal to the Administrative Hearing Board
  - If bond is posted, hearing must occur within 72 hours. Otherwise, hearing must occur within 10 business days
  - Can also appeal within 10 days after receiving notice that impoundment period has ended
    - Required by state law to allow for escheatment
- Civil Penalties
  - 7 days after issuance of the civil citation to the Administrative Hearing Board

Questions?

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