

2-25-2020

ITEM 8



City Council Meeting

Item #8. Report on Illegal Street Racing and Sideshow Activity

February 25, 2020

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City of Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

Agenda

1. Background
2. Presentation by Matrix Consulting Group
3. Staff Recommendations

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POST MEETING MATERIAL

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Background

- April 9, 2019 – Council directed City Manager to return to Council with information and analysis on the resources to curtail street racing and illegal sideshow activity
- April 25, 2019 – City Manager's office initiated SOQ process
- June 21, 2019 – City entered into an agreement with Matrix Consulting Group to conduct study

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Purpose of Study

- To better understand illegal street racing and sideshow activity specific to Santa Clara;
- To identify current laws as it relates to this activity;
- To review how other cities in the Bay Area are addressing similar issues in their communities; and
- To identify short-term and long-term strategies to discourage this illegal activity in Santa Clara.

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Matrix Consulting Group John Scruggs, Manager

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**Findings and Recommendations in the
Illegal Street Racing Study**

Santa Clara, California

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Study Objectives

- ◆ Comprehensive study focusing on illegal street racing including:
 - Assessment of Current and recent Street Racing and Sideshow Activity in Santa Clara.
 - A review of CAD and Arrest data relating to Street Racing with input from the Police Department and development of a “hot spot” mapping to develop complete understanding of areas impacted.
 - Conduct community information gathering and contact stakeholders.
 - Identify possible solutions that have worked in the past or are currently used both regionally and nationally.
 - Preparation of comprehensive report outlining the existing problems, available solutions and a detailed steps to enact a new ordinance if necessary.

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Methodological Overview

- ◆ Extensive input from departmental personnel through face-to-face interviews.
- ◆ Review of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records.
- ◆ An online community survey.
- ◆ In person interviews with area businesses.
- ◆ Review of adopted local ordinances used to address illegal street racing.
- ◆ Collaboration with City and the Department's staff to review findings, assumptions and analysis.

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Major Findings

- ◆ There are two types of Illegal street racing and “side shows” occurring in Santa Clara – Organized (planned) and spontaneous.
- ◆ Spontaneous or unplanned Illegal Street Racing and Sideshow activity is occurring at a higher frequency than organized Illegal Street Racing.
- ◆ Organized Illegal Street Racing and Sideshow activity is mostly concentrated in the area of Lafayette Street and Calle De Luna.
- ◆ Noise is the most common complaint.
- ◆ Most respondents to the online survey do not call the police because they believe it will be ineffective.
- ◆ Most respondents support increased enforcement followed by the use of technology.

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Major Findings (Continued)

- ◆ Though illegal street racing occurs in most parts of the city, there are areas where there is a higher concentration of activity.
- ◆ There is little research on how to effectively reduce illegal street racing.
- ◆ The physical environment can have an impact on illegal street racing.
- ◆ Most law enforcement agencies are reactive to illegal street racing.

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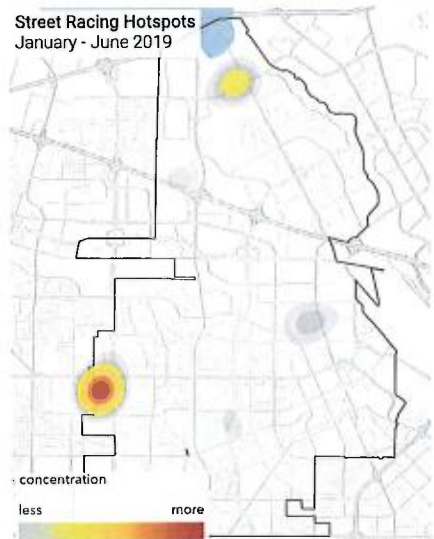
Calls for Service Data (January 1 to June 30, 2019)

Hour	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
12am	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	6
1am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3am	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
4am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5am	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
6am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9am	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
10am	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11am	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12pm	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
1pm	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2pm	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
3pm	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
4pm	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	6
5pm	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	6
6pm	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	7
7pm	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
8pm	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
9pm	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
10pm	2	0	1	2	2	2	0	9
11pm	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	5
Total	21	6	5	11	6	12	12	73



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Street Racing Hotspots (January 1 to June 30, 2019)



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Online Community Survey

- ◆ In the last 12 months, have you personally witnessed an illegal street race in Santa Clara? **Yes – 27.5%**
- ◆ Was the activity reported to the Police Department? **Yes – 18.1%**
- ◆ If you witnessed any of the above activities, which best describes the type of location where it occurred?
 - Residential Neighborhood Area: **73.6%**
 - Business or Manufacturing Area: **26.4%**
- ◆ Best way to reduce illegal street racing:
 - Increased Enforcement: **65.7%**
 - Use of technology (Photo Radar, etc.): **45.2%**
 - Physical changes to the Roadway: **28%**
 - Additional City Ordinances: **13.8%**

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Business Outreach

- ◆ Are you aware illegal street racing is occurring the area?
 - **Yes – 82.1%**
 - **No – 17.9%**
- ◆ Is your business impacted?
 - **Yes – 17.9%**
 - **No – 82.1%**
- ◆ If impacted, what is the impact?
 - Noise – **62.5%**
 - Blocking Traffic – **25%**
 - Trash – **12.5%**

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Researched Potential Solutions

- ◆ Many different approaches have been taken, but the effectiveness of many approaches has not been proven.
- ◆ The most common solution used is a specific ordinances to enhance police enforcement of spectators and participants.
- ◆ Potential solutions fell into 4 general categories:
 - Legislative
 - Enforcement
 - Engineering
 - Technology

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Legislative Solutions

1. Enact an ordinance to address Illegal Street Racing and Sideshows.
2. Develop a strategy to enable speed camera enforcement at the State Assembly.

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Enforcement Solutions

3. Use overtime to address Illegal Street racing on weekend afternoons and evenings when pre-event intelligence would suggest it would be beneficial. Based on current information this would be approximately two weekends a month about 8 months a year.
4. Assign street racing cases to the traffic unit for follow up investigations where possible.
5. Train officers (in a CHP class) on Illegal Street Racing enforcement.



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Public Education Solutions

6. Draw attention to the dangers of Illegal Street racing by using social media.
7. Add street signs to areas where illegal street racing is occurring that notify drivers that is illegal, is actively enforced and outlines potential penalties for illegal street racing. Signs should be placed at the following four locations:
 - Lafayette north of Calle De Mundo for northbound travel
 - On Lafayette south of Great American Way for southbound bound travel
 - El Camino Real near Halton St for eastbound travel
 - El Camino Real near Halton St for westbound travel



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Technology Solutions

8. Add two additional fixed post ALPR systems with speed measuring on Lafayette north of the golf course pedestrian bridge that crosses Lafayette Street. One system for northbound travel and one for southbound travel.
9. Add two speed activated warning signs in conjunction with the proposed ALPR systems on Lafayette Street. One system for northbound travel and one for southbound travel.



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Additional Solutions

- ◆ The area of Lafayette and Calle Del Mundo is slated for redevelopment as a mixed use residential and commercial project. If or when this project is completed, it will change the physical environment of the area and make it less desirable for organized illegal street racing.



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Questions?

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**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

Staff Recommendations

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Recommendation #1	Staff Response
<p><i>Enact an ordinance to address Illegal Street Racing and Sideshows.</i></p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Included in the report is a proposed ordinance intended to discourage individuals from organizing, participating in, or acting as spectators at, illegal speed contests and reckless driving exhibitions.</p> <p>Should the Council wish to proceed with this recommendation, staff would finalize the proposed ordinance and return at a future date for introduction and approval of the Ordinance.</p> <p>23</p>

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Recommendation #2	Staff Response
<p><i>Develop a strategy to enable speed camera enforcement at the State Assembly.</i></p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Staff will work with counterparts in other agencies and municipalities to continue to monitor State legislation in this area.</p> <p>Staff will also work with our new lobbyists, Townsend, to make sure that Santa Clara's concerns are surfaced in Sacramento and as part of the development of State legislation.</p> <p>24</p>

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Recommendation #3	Staff Response
<p><i>Use overtime to address Illegal Street Racing on weekend afternoons/ evenings when pre-event intelligence is obtained.</i></p>	<p>Support with modifications.</p> <p>Staff will provide additional resources to the extent possible.</p> <p><u>Additional options:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Strategic placement of patrol vehicles 2) Use of Police Reserves 3) Feasibility of CHP overtime

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Recommendation #4	Staff Response
<p><i>Assign street racing cases to the traffic unit for follow up investigations, where possible.</i></p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Staff will develop a communications strategy, including working with our new communications consultants to help educate the public on the importance of reporting activity, so that follow-up investigations can be assigned.</p>

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Recommendation #5	Staff Response
<p><i>Train officers in a California Highway Patrol (CHP) class on Illegal Street Racing enforcement.</i></p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Staff will work to identify a training plan to increase the capacity of trained police officers in this area.</p>

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Recommendation #6	Staff Response
<p><i>Draw attention to the dangers of illegal street activity by using social media and other media PSAs.</i></p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Staff will work to develop strategic messaging and/or educational campaign regarding the dangers of illegal street activity which can be delivered by existing social media outlets and resources.</p> <p>This will be a communications effort that our new communications consultants can lead for the City of Santa Clara.</p>

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Recommendation #7	Staff Response
<p><i>Add street signs to areas where illegal street racing is occurring that notify drivers that it is illegal, actively enforced and that outline potential penalties for illegal street racing.</i></p>	<p>Defer.</p> <p>Staff suggests that this recommendation be deferred to allow staff to evaluate the effectiveness of other low/no cost strategies including the adoption and implementation of a new, applicable City ordinance and the educational campaign to heighten community awareness.</p>

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Recommendation #8 & #9	Staff Response
<p><i># 8 - Add two additional fixed post ALPR systems with speed measuring on Lafayette north of the golf course pedestrian bridge that crosses Lafayette Street. One system for northbound travel and one for southbound travel.</i></p> <p><i>#9 - Add two speed activated warning signs in conjunction with the proposed ALPR systems on Lafayette Street. One system for northbound travel and one for southbound travel.</i></p>	<p>Defer.</p> <p>Staff does not support implementation of these recommendations at this time due to potential additional costs.</p> <p>May potentially be offset by future development projects currently in the City's pipeline. As noted by the consultant.</p>

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In summary, staff:

1. Supports Recommendations 1 through 6 which can be implemented with existing resources and/or have a minimal cost impact;
2. Recommends deferral of Recommendation 7; and
3. Proposes that Recommendations 8 and 9 not be implemented.

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Alternatives

1. Direct staff to prepare a new ordinance amending Santa Clara City Code, Section 10 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), in consideration of consultant study findings, and implement Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as presented in this report.
2. Any other action as directed by Council.

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Staff Recommendation

Alternative 1: Direct the City Manager to prepare a new ordinance amending Santa Clara City Code, Section 10 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), in consideration of consultant study findings, and to implement Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as presented in this report.

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City Council Meeting

**Item #8. Report on Illegal Street
Racing and Sideshow Activity**

February 25, 2020

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2/25/20

Item 8

Dear City Council,

I was recently made aware that at the upcoming council meeting on Tuesday, 2/25 there will discussion on street racing. I first want to thank you for taking this issue seriously. As a Santa Clara resident who has had to endure this for nearly 2 years being woken up at night, I have been trying to work with SCPD to get the issue at Halford/Lillick resolved (near Lawrence / El Camino).

There are constant doughnuts at the Lillick/Halford intersection and in neighboring business parking lots. The cars doing this are known as I have installed high resolution cameras to catch these people over the last year. However, the fundamental problem to getting this issue resolved is: ***The SCPD states there is nothing they can do with video evidence as they must catch the perpetrators in the act.*** If there is one thing you can change, **it would be for them to be able to act on the video evidence that already exists.** I have included 8 vehicles below (there are more). The photo evidence here does not show the severity of what is going on please watch the videos in dropbox. At the following dropbox link is video / photos I have been sharing with SCPD over the last 2 years with zero dangerous driving citations, zero impounds, and only what I can describe as an escalating problem.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xg66pi9h46b1fpm/AACMcB1FVVrBlwG4isOe-Zk9a?dl=0>

I would like to recognize and thank SCPD Officer Sitler for helping to increase patrol of this intersection addressing speeding and failure to stop at the 4-way stop intersection. Unfortunately, the increased enforcement has not addressed the more concerning issue of doughnuts and reckless driving that continues unabated. I am truly concerned for safety of pedestrians and other motorists in this area. On multiple occasions, I have video showing the reckless driving occurring when there are cars and pedestrians in the area.

The only way to get these people to stop is to act on the overwhelming evidence. They know nothing will be done and keep doing it. Signs, PSAs are not going to stop these people. Many of the reckless drivers live in the surrounding neighborhood over near Peacock Court. While these drivers are reckless they are not stupid; so if the officer must catch them in the act, that will never happen!

The consulting group said "Residents don't call the Police Department as they believe it will be ineffective." First of all, I have called the police and I know my neighbors have as well. The truth is IT IS ineffective to call the police as it has resulted in zero enforcement despite overwhelming video evidence including license plates and pictures of drivers. I stopped calling in complaints and have just been emailing with Officer Sitler as that has worked the best. But frankly, I feel progress is painfully slow in addressing this problem.

I hope the council will take measures that will really improve this situation for the safety of our community.

Matt Kucic

POST MEETING MATERIAL

For the videos in the following links the more recent videos have better footage. Older videos may have a web.mp4 version where the others may not play well in all video software before I moved to better camera recording. Hdcam8 videos will show you the best over-view. Hdcam4 video actually captures audio.

The videos in dropbox are the most egregious. This in my local collection showing all the issues capture at this intersection in the last year. I am sure there are more that I was not around to hear and pull footage from.

2019-01-31-pontiac	2019-08-20_minivan_ran_intersection_3uel337	2020-02-03-truck-82617p2
2019-02-01	2019-08-21_red_car_ran_interseciton	2020-02-03-white-car
2019-03-09	2019-08-23-black-mustang-racing-off line	2020-02-16-black dodge-7upn641
2019-06-08-gold-blue-truck	2019-08-26_whitecharger_followedby_gray_bmw	2020-02-16-neighborhood-walk
2019-06-10-problem-cars-last-year	2019-08-30-white_charger_8LGU171	hdcam4.20190726_133945_1.jpg
2019-06-12	2019-09-05	hdcam10.20190830_112144369_1.jpg
2019-06-14-white-truck	2019-09-06_white_charger_astaaadd	hdcam10.20191024_144609796_1.jpg
2019-06-19-blue_dodge_truck_87889M2	2019-09-07-graybmw	hdcam10.20191106_142057142_1.jpg
2019-07-06-blue_dodge_truck_87889M2	2019-10-16-pontiac	
2019-07-09-gray_bmw_7vhy297	2019-10-19	
2019-07-10-gray_bmw_7vhy297	2019-10-23-red_family_van_pealing_out	
2019-07-15-orange_camero	2019-10-28-stopsign_runner	
2019-07-16-white-charger	2019-11-10-pontiac_night_engine_rev	
2019-07-17-white-charger	2019-12-04-truck-82617p2	
2019-07-19-gray_bmw_7vhy297	2019-12-12-gray-bmw-7vhy297	
2019-07-22-white_charger	2019-12-22-truck	
2019-08-02-gray_bmw_7vhy297	2020-01-03-car	
2019-08-18-gray_bmw_7vhy297	2020-01-14-gray-bmw-6jkg253	
2019-08-18-truck	2020-01-22-truck-87889m2	

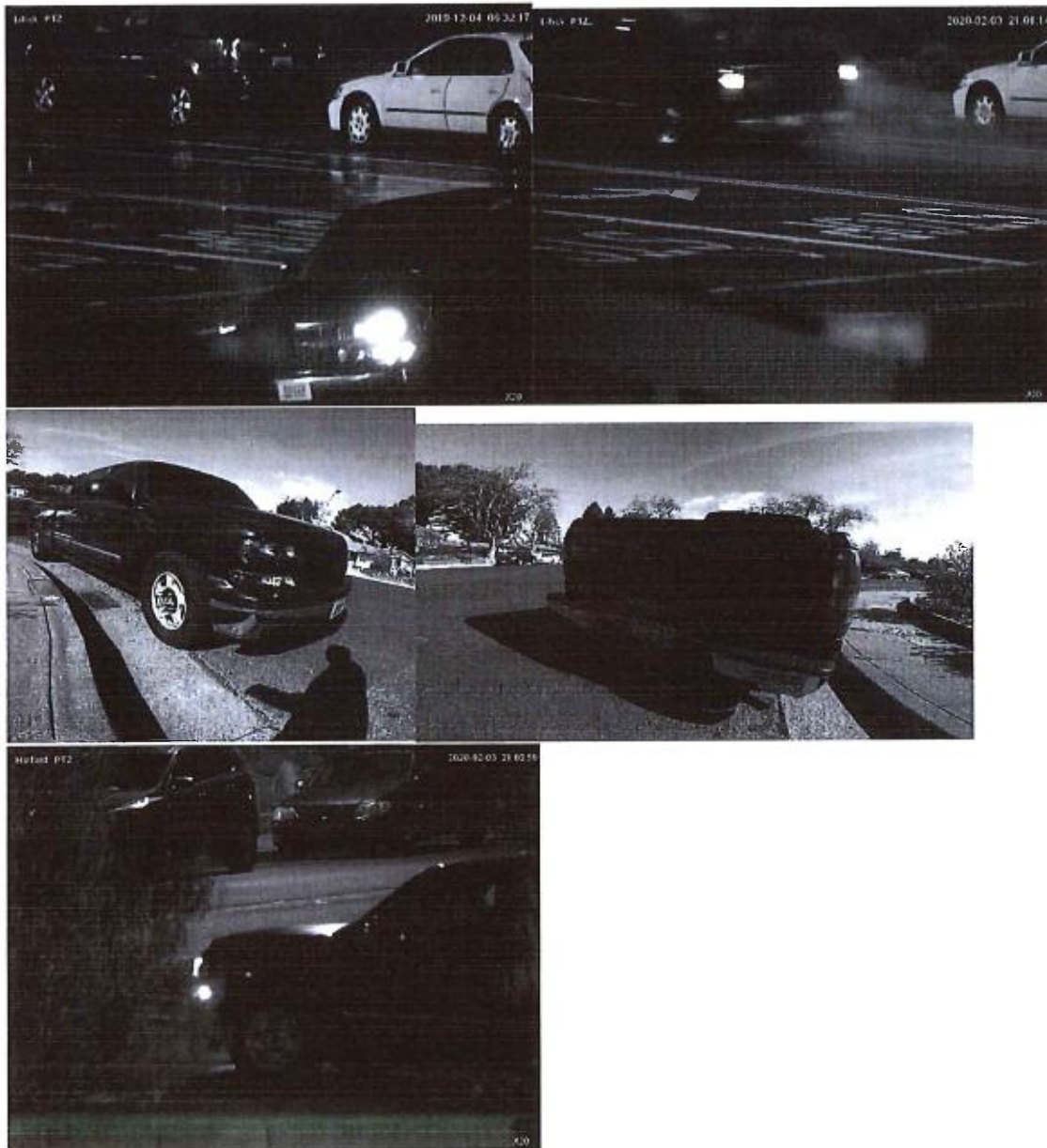
Vehicle 1: Blue Chevy Plates: 82617P2 Has distinctive student driver sticker and back window decal.

Notes: This truck has been found on several occasions in the neighborhood and likely is a local resident. The front plate says Brain (not legal), the windows including the front are heavily tinted (illegal), has loud exhaust so you always know when it is around, and has spikes for lugnuts.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2019-12-04-truck-82617p2](#)

[2020-02-03-truck-82617p2](#)



Vehicle 2: Blue Dodge License Plate: 87889M2. Distinctive dodge logo on the side of the bed and letter on front window.

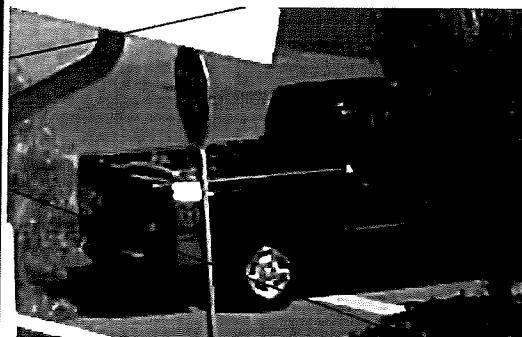
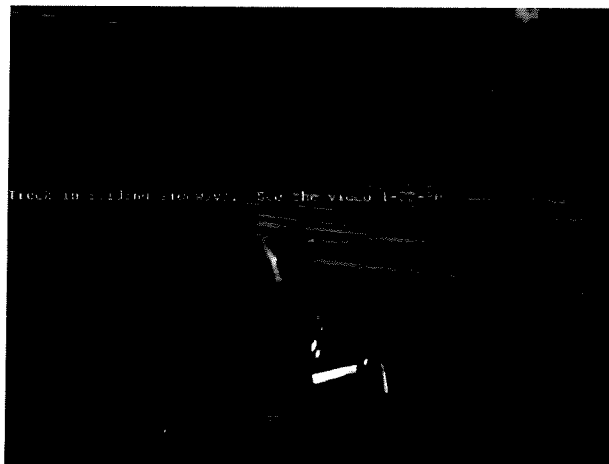
Notes: This truck has been found on several occasions in the neighborhood (near vehicle 1) next door as like is a local resident.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2019-06-08-gold-blue-truck](#)

[2019-06-19-blue dodge truck 87889M2](#)

[2020-01-22-truck-87889m2](#)



You really have to watch the videos in the link to see just how dangerous this is.

Vehicle3: Gray BMW License Plate: 7vhy297. Officer stated expired registration but I have tracked this car back to ~3711 Peacock Ct, see 2019-09-07-gray_bmw_7vhy297

Notes: This person is likely a friend of the resident above. On top of doughnuts he ran the stop sign at full speed see 7-10-19, stopped on the other side and peeled out.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2019-07-09-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#) [2019-07-10-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#) [2019-07-19-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#)

[2019-08-02-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#) [2019-08-18-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#) [2019-09-07-gray_bmw_7vhy297](#)



Vehicle 4: Gray BMW License Plate: 6jkg253.

Notes:

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2020-01-14-gray-bmw-6jkg253](#)

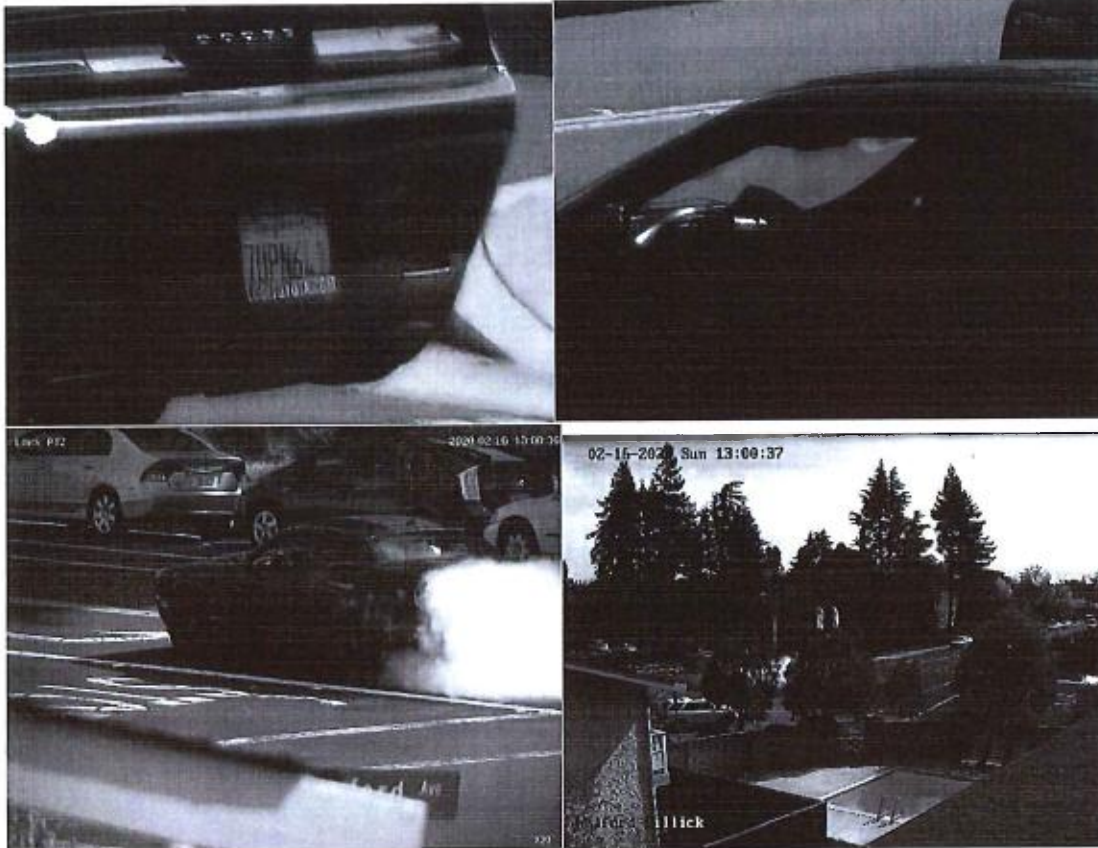


Vehicle 5: Black Dodge License Plate: 7upn641

Notes: This car was also in the same neighborhood as the others and almost did it again when leaving (from Peacock ct area) but likely was too crowded.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2020-02-16-black dodge-7upn641](#)

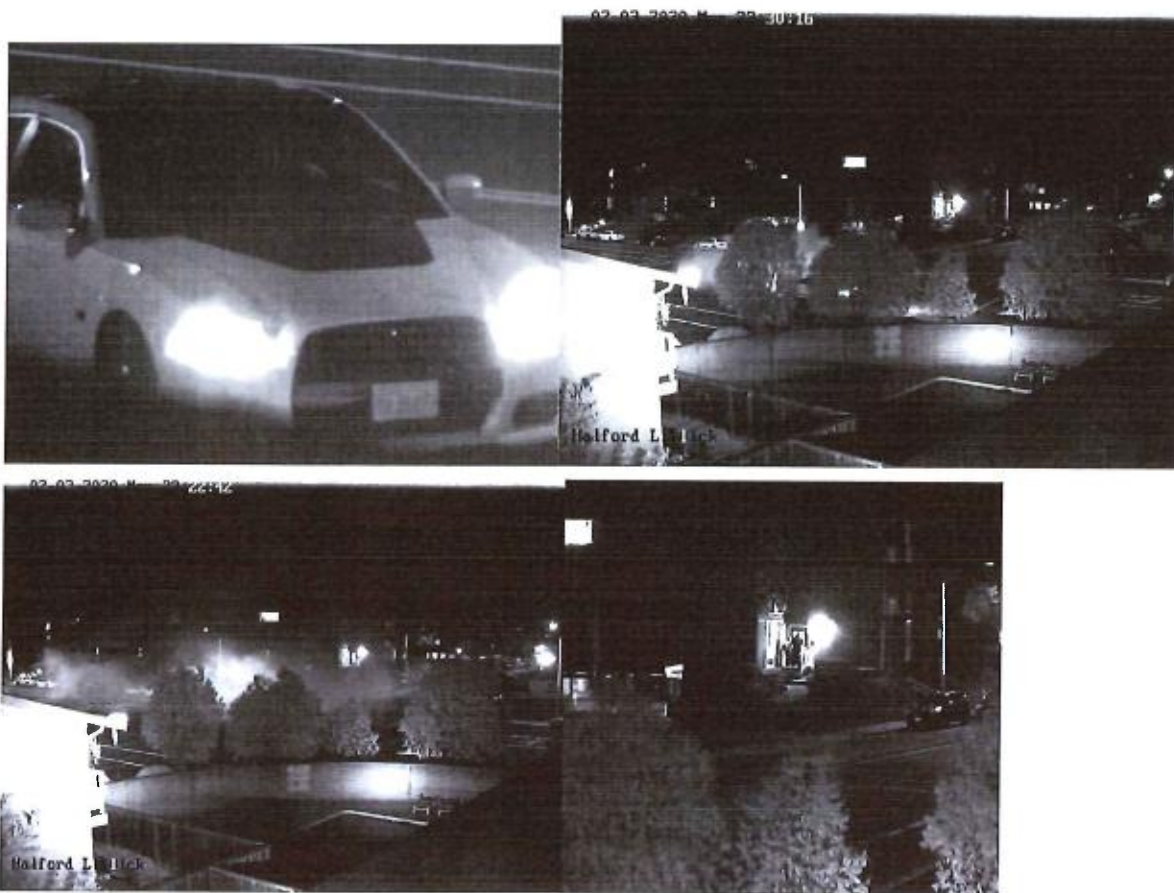


Vehicle 6: White Car License Plate: No readable

Notes: This car did doughnuts parked, 2 people went to the back door of the apt across the street and did the same when leaving. I assume they know someone across the street.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2020-02-03-white-car](#)



Vehicle 7: Pontiac UNREGISTERED FOR MORE THAN 1.5 YEARS

Notes: This lady was the start of all of this. I had called police on her in fall of 2018 when she did this for over 1 hour. See still is at is as of 10-16-19. I have some older files but those were before better cameras on this intersection.

Recorded Incidents: The following are links to video/photos of Doughnuts at Halford/Lillick

[2019-10-16-pontiac](#)

[2019-11-10-pontiac_night_engine_rev](#)



Vehicle 8: White Charger License Plate: ASTAADD

This is a resident that lives in the neighborhood and RACES full throttle off the intersection very often and you can hear he does not let up to almost at the El Camino intersection

[2019-09-06 white_charger_astaadd](#)