



My name is Mary McDonald and I am the Mayor of the City of Trotwood, Ohio.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak on what has become a pressing driving concern called "Hooning." Hooning is the act of reckless driving, burning rubber, obstructing traffic, and other irresponsible actions while behind the wheel of a vehicle.

The city of Trotwood is a suburb of the city of Dayton. We are approximately 24,000 people in population and are very much a bedroom community. Not only has this type of reckless driving taken place in our City, it is also happening in many other communities in Montgomery County, the State of Ohio, and the Nation.

As Mayor, I find it extremely troubling to see the escalation of this current trend in dangerous driving. Equally as troubling is knowing law enforcement is unable to enforce the current laws due to the lack of legislation addressing such irresponsible behavior.

Our officers take an oath to serve and protect and they put their lives on the line each and every day for citizens. Hooning has become a nuisance to the police and unfortunately, the current tools and laws in place are simply not sufficient for the risks associated with these types of incidents.

Hooning is also a nuisance to the many law-abiding citizens. While going about their daily business, these innocent citizens could inadvertently encounter one of these incidents with little to no advance notice, and further, it could change their life forever.

Personally, I know the impact of such driving as my sister was a victim of a hooning incident. The crash caused by such egregious driving totaled her vehicle and caused her devastating health issues. After having surgery last August, she remains in a nursing home working to recuperate her health and strength.

I also know of a bright and promising young lady who lost her life the day after her 31st birthday; she was simply driving on a city street. This young lady, who had much to offer society, lost her life as the result of a reckless driver who crashed into four cars.

I believe cameras throughout communities and stiffer fines would be one way to capture the necessary evidence and impact violators. I also believe that confiscating the vehicles used in honing events would be an appropriate deterrent.

Committee Members, I am asking that you support stricter and enforceable laws that would give officers the tools they need to discourage participation in such irresponsible behavior and ensure that risking their lives, and the lives of others, would be a redeemable act.

Mary A. McDonald

Mayor
City of Trotwood, Ohio