



TROTWOOD

GROWING TOGETHER

Ohio House of Representatives
Criminal Justice Committee
1 Capitol Sq, Columbus, OH 43215

Madam Chair-Person, Committee Members,

Good morning. My name is Erik Wilson. I am the Chief of Police for the City of Trotwood, located in Montgomery County. The reason for me being here with you today is to give comments on a rising issue that is not only plaguing the streets of my community but all the roadways across our state.

Hooning / Reckless driving, Street Racing and Fleeing and Eluding from the Police, what is Hooning it's a verb describe in the dictionary: to **behave in a loutish (uncouth and aggressive) way, especially by driving irresponsibly**, this all causes a serious threat of harm to the driving public on our roadways.

For the past 24 months, we have noticed a trend, Street takeovers / Hooning and it appears to be growing with every event.

In the fall of 2022, we began discussion with our State Representative the Honorable Phil Plummer, to put forth laws to address the issue of Street takeovers / Hooning laws that will strengthen Police Departments across the State, that will deter these types of activities.

Then on January 14, 2023, the City of Trotwood along with other communities in our region, was subjected to a coordinated Street take over that had participants from Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. While investigating this event we learned these events go from one state to another and they are coordinated through social media which has the potential to overwhelm the Safety Services in communities.

I have brought a short video from the social media site YouTube of the incident that occurred on January 14, 2023.

<https://youtu.be/Rj1MEf2egqw>

We cannot tolerate the blatant disregard for public safety on our community roadways, I believe stiffening the penalties for this type of behavior will give Law Enforcement the tools required to continue to make our communities a safe place to live and work.

Thank you, Madam Chair-person, Committee members, for allowing me to address you on this very serious topic.

Sincerely,

Chief Erik L. Wilson