



COOLIDGE WALL

A Legal Professional Association

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March 27, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives
Vern Riffe State Office Tower
77 S. High Street, No. 12
Columbus, OH 43215

Attn: Representatives Phil Plummer and Andrea White

Re: Statement from the City of Trotwood Law Director on House Bill 56-
Prohibiting Hooning and Being a Spectator at a Hooning Event.

Good Afternoon,

I am Christopher R. Conard the Law Director for the City of Trotwood. I am here with Benjamin A. Mazer, the Assistant Law Director. We are providing testimony with regard to House Bill 56 Prohibiting Hooning and Being a Spectator at a Hooning Event.

Currently there are no laws that directly prohibit this form of reckless and dangerous driving. Historically, laws prohibiting drag racing and reckless operation were, for the most part, adequate to protect the public while also deterring and punishing the drivers.

Hooning is something completely different. It is a form of flash-mob street racing. Intersections are blocked, crowds gather without safety barriers for spectators. Seat belts are not worn, and people hang out of car windows while drivers execute high speed doughnuts and burnouts. The events are recorded, and people proudly post video that is professionally edited, in part, because they know it is unlikely Hooning drivers, participants and spectators, will face any legal consequence.

The unfortunate truth is that police efforts to prevent Hooning are hampered, and legal enforcement is very difficult. Participants and spectators at Hooning events know this. For example, when law enforcement is dispatched to a Hooning event, drivers scatter, often at high speeds, because most cities do not allow hot pursuit for non-violent criminal activity. The drivers know if they drive fast enough, police will not follow.

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House Bill 56 is a reasonable and measured approach to hold those involved in Hooning events to be held accountable. By adding the risk of seizure and forfeiture of vehicles used in Hooning events and adding punishment to spectators, judges will have real enforcement tools that have the proper balance of deterrence through consequence, but also protect the interests of due process.

This bill will protect the public and provide police with a tool to stop the form of brazen lawlessness that Hooning is.

Very truly yours,



Christopher R. Conard,
Law Director for the City of Trotwood



Benjamin A. Mazer
Asst. Law Director for the City of Trotwood

CRC/ljd