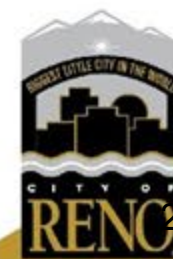
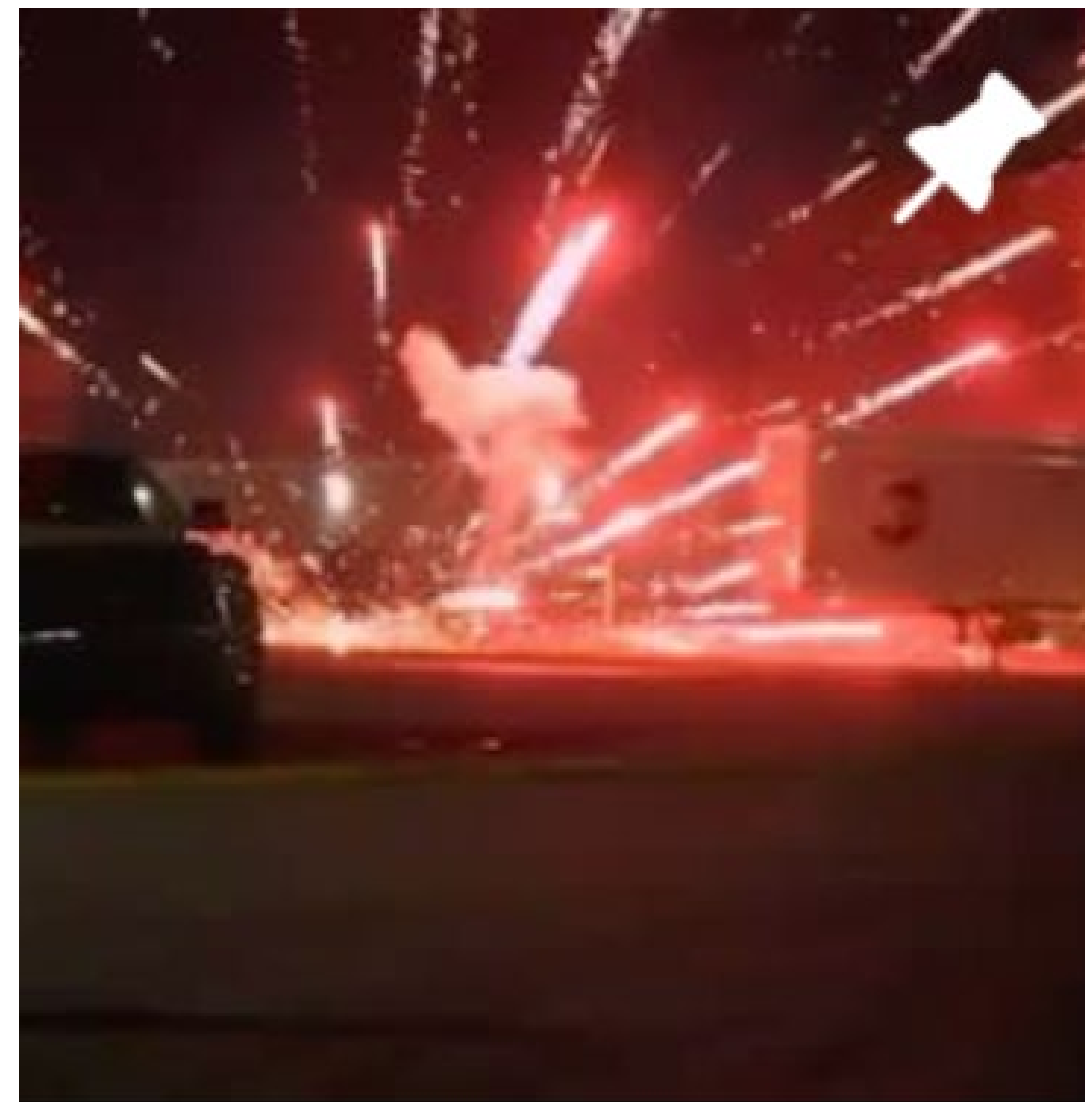


Reno Police Department



Staff Report - Spectator Ordinance
Conversion of RMC §6.06.170 to Title 8 of RMC
May 10, 2023

Spectators and Sideshows



Background

- Last year Reno saw a significant increase in motor vehicle races, contests, or exhibitions (a.k.a. – sideshows, street takeovers, stunt driving, etc.)
- These events were fueled by the assembling of hundreds of spectators.
- These events create dangers for other motorists, for the spectators themselves, and result in property damage.
- These events move from location to location over periods of hours and the spectators follow.
- There is a propensity for the spectating offense to continue over a period of time, making arrest for ongoing offenses a valuable enforcement option.

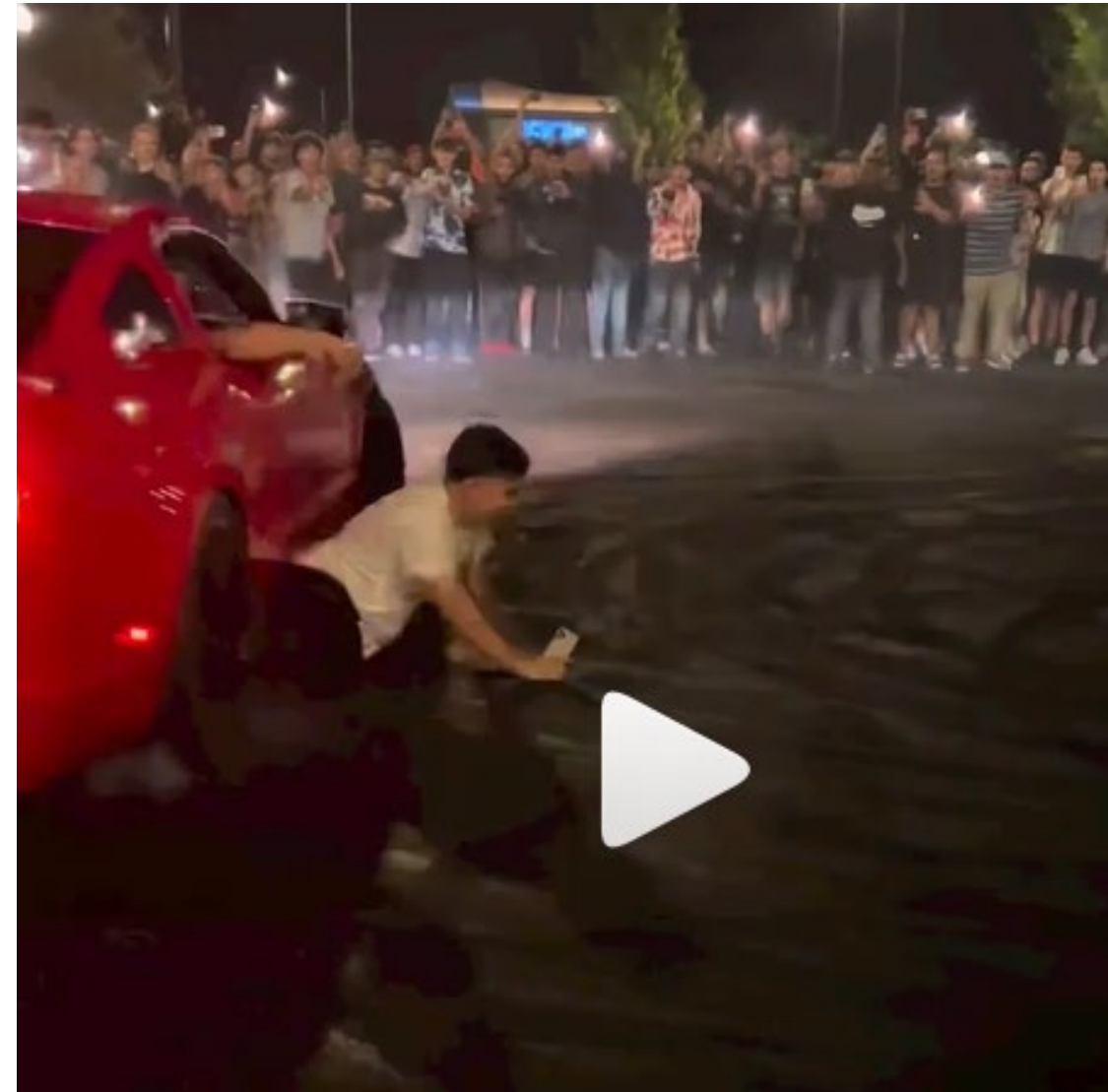


Who is a spectator?

- They are present where an illegal motor vehicle speed race or other sideshow violations are occurring,
- for the **purpose** of viewing, observing, watching, or witnessing the event as it progresses.
- Their intended purpose is to encourage, record, promote, and share the illegal activities, thus increasing illegal activities.
- They are more than a casual observer.



Spectator Safety Concerns



Spectator Safety Concerns



Summary

- In 2003 The Reno City Council adopted a law to prohibit spectators at illegal street races
- By discouraging spectators organizing and participating in illegal street races will be discouraged.



Summary cont.

- In 2021, the Nevada Legislature enacted AB 116 changing traffic offenses to civil infractions
- Including Reno Municipal Code (RMC) §6.06.170 –
 - *Spectators prohibited at illegal speed racing and other speed violations*
 - enforceable by fine only and prohibiting officers to arrest for offense
- Today, move the ordinance to Title 8 of the Reno Municipal Code, making it a misdemeanor again.



Sec. 8.12.170 – Spectators prohibited at illegal race, drag race, competition, contest, test, stunt, trick, takeover or exhibition.

- Unless otherwise permitted no person on any highway, roadway, or on a premises to which the public has access shall be a spectator to an illegal race, drag race, competition, contest, test, stunt, trick, takeover or exhibition. A violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor offense.
- “Burnout” means a maneuver performed while operating a motor vehicle whereby the motor vehicle is kept stationery, or is in motion, while the wheels are spun, resulting in friction which causes the motor vehicle’s tires to heat up and emit smoke.
- “Doughnut” means a maneuver performed while operating a motor vehicle whereby the front or rear of the motor vehicle is rotated around the opposite set of wheels in a continuous motion which may cause a circular skid-mark pattern of rubber on the driving surface or the tires to heat up and emit smoke from friction, or both.
- “Wheelie” means a maneuver performed while operating a motor vehicle whereby a motor vehicle is ridden for a distance with the front wheels or any wheels raised off the ground.



Sec. 8.12.170 – Continued

- “Drag Race” means the operation of two or more motor vehicles from a point side by side at accelerating speeds in a competitive attempt to outdistance each other, or the operation of one or more motor vehicles over a common selected course, from the same point to the same point, for the purpose of comparing the relative speeds or power of acceleration of such motor vehicle or motor vehicles within a certain distance or time limit.
- “Race” means the use of one or more motor vehicles in competition, arising from a challenge to demonstrate superiority of a motor vehicle or driver and the acceptance or competitive response to that challenge, either through a prior arrangement or in immediate response, in which the competitor attempts to outgain or outdistance another motor vehicle, to prevent another motor vehicle from passing, to arrive at a given destination ahead of another motor vehicle or motor vehicles, or to test the physical stamina or endurance of drivers over long-distance driving routes. A race may be pre arranged or may occur through a competitive response to conduct on the part of one or more drivers which, under the totality of the circumstances, can reasonably be interpreted as a challenge to race.



Sec. 8.12.170 – Continued

- “Drifting” means a maneuver performed while operating a motor vehicle whereby the motor vehicle is steered so that it makes a controlled skid sideways through a turn with the front wheels pointed in a direction opposite to that of the turn.
- “Takeover” means the unlawful operation of a motor vehicle that cause the movement of traffic to slow or stop for any race, drag race, competition, contest, test, stunt or trick, including, but not limited to, drifting, burnouts, wheelies, and reckless driving, or exhibition of a vehicle's performance capabilities or of a driver's ability in violation of state law.
- “Spectator” means a person who is present at and views a race, drag race, competition, contest, test, stunt or trick, takeover ride, or exhibition.
- “Stunt driving” means to perform or engage in any burnouts, doughnuts, drifting, wheelies, or other dangerous motor vehicle activity on a highway, roadway, or on a premises where the public has access.



Proposed Motions

- Move to Refer E.1 Ordinance to amend Reno Municipal Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.06, Section 6.06.170 making it a misdemeanor to knowingly attend an unpermitted motor vehicle race, contest or exhibition as a spectator.
- Move to Refer E.2 Ordinance to amend Reno Municipal Code, Title 8, Chapter 8.12, Section 8.12.170 making it a misdemeanor to knowingly attend an unpermitted motor vehicle race, contest or exhibition as a spectator.

