



CITY OF TUCSON  
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# MEMORANDUM



DATE: October 2, 2023

TO: Mayor, Regina Romero  
City Clerk, Suzanne Mesich

FROM: Councilwoman Nikki Lee

*Nikki Lee*

**SUBJECT: No-Racing Photo Enforcement Zones Mayor and Council Study Session Item**

Please place the item on the **October 17, 2023**, Mayor and Council Study Session for **20 minutes**.

Our community has been facing an unsettling amount of illegal street racing. Organized racing groups illegally take over the streets of Tucson for hours; barricading residents and businesses, shooting guns, crowds cheering, engines roaring and tires screeching throughout the night. Unfortunately, this issue is not new to us, but recently, it has escalated to an unprecedented level. It is not something anyone should have to endure in their neighborhood and business.

In partnership with Tucson Police Department Operation's Division East and the City Attorney's Office, my team and I have been exploring legal ways to supplement the physical efforts of our police officers using technology to focus on illegal street racing throughout the city. In July 2023 the Seattle City Council passed legislation to reduce drag racing and dangerous driving. The ordinance kickstarts the city's plans to install speed enforcement cameras in key areas of the city that are heavily impacted by unsafe driving. This is the first legislation of its kind in Seattle. Washington State authorized cities to use automated camera enforcement in restricted racing zones last year. This legislation designates 10 of those dangerous zones throughout the city.

In working with the Tucson Attorney's Office, we have learned that the City of Tucson could create a No-Racing Photo Enforcement Zone. Proposition 201, adopted by City constituents in November 2015, was codified by Mayor and Council as TCC Sec.20-2. That Section of the Tucson Code applies not only to red-light cameras but to speed enforcement cameras as well. For the violation (racing) to be enforceable under that code section, a human (i.e., police officer), on-site, eyewitness to the violation is required who can testify at court. Thus, an officer will still need to be present to monitor the photo enforcement mechanism on-site during use.

I am requesting a 20 minute Study Session item on October 17, 2023 to hear from our Tucson Police Chief Kasmar and the City of Tucson Attorney's office, and allow Mayor and Council the opportunity to give feedback and direction in hopes to have staff draft the standards and specifications required by ARS Sec. 28-1204 and bring back for Council's consideration an ordinance to adopt the standards as specifications and declare specific segments of road as a No-Racing Photo Enforcement Zone.

cc Mayor & Council  
City Manager, Michael Ortega

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