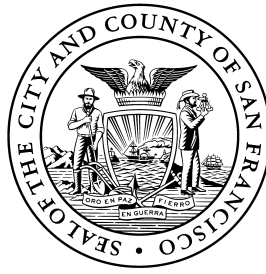


City and County
of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors,
District 6

MATT DORSEY

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NEWS RELEASE

Dorsey’s anti-stunt driving moves seek tougher penalties, stronger deterrents, and recovery of taxpayers’ costs

Responding to recent ‘sideshow’ events in District 6, Supervisor Matt Dorsey announces a set of actions to put an end to lawless conduct led largely by out-of-towners scofflaws

SAN FRANCISCO (Oct. 18, 2022) — Supervisor Matt Dorsey today announced a series of strategies aimed at deterring illegal stunt driving events in San Francisco, with steps aimed at toughening penalties for drivers and participants; expanding infrastructure changes in at-risk intersections to deter stunt driving activity; and exploring strategies to both improve enforcement and enable San Francisco to recover taxpayers’ costs from scofflaws for cleaning and repairing damaged intersections and for added demands on traffic enforcement.

“Stunt driving events are disruptive to our neighborhoods and incredibly dangerous for participants and passersby alike,” said Dorsey. “Earlier this month, video of an illegal sideshow at Harrison and Main Streets showed one individual being struck by a car. In 2020, a similar stunt driving event in the Mission Terrace neighborhood resulted in a shooting death. This is regionally orchestrated criminal activity, and San Francisco must be vigilant in keeping pace with nearby jurisdictions to avoid becoming a soft target and the Bay Area’s favored choice for this kind of lawless conduct.”

Dorsey continued: “The strategies I’m announcing today seek to expand on the excellent legislative work done by Supervisors Ahsha Safaí and Aaron Peskin and Board President Shamann Walton, while exploring more approaches that involve infrastructure changes to intersections, improved enforcement and ways for us to aggressively pursue scofflaws for the costs incurred to taxpayers for enforcement and to clean and repair damaged intersections. I look forward to working with my colleagues — and especially Sup. Safaí — on improvements that San Franciscans in my district are demanding.”

The steps announced today follow disruptive sideshows that took place in Dorsey’s district recently, where neighborhood intersections in close proximity to highways can draw hundreds of stunt driving participants and spectators who typically organize on social media. Last year, a deployment of the San Francisco Police Department’s Stunt Driving Response Unit near the intersection of Dolores Street and 30th Street cited ten violators — all between the ages of 18 and 23 — not one of whom was a San Francisco resident.

- Dorsey will request an ordinance from City Attorney David Chiu’s office to increase to a full 30-day period the amount of time vehicles can be impounded when used in sideshows in the City. Current law provides for ranges from no less than 14 days for the first incident, no less than 15 days for the second, and no more than 30 days for the third, with no impoundment lasting more than 30 days. The proposed legislation builds on an ordinance authored by Supervisor Safaí together with co-authors that the Board passed in 2020. If passed, the legislation will further amend local codes so that vehicles can be impounded for the maximum duration of 30 days on the first offense.
- Because state law currently limits penalties San Francisco can impose on individuals who engage in stunt driving events, Dorsey is preparing a resolution to urge state lawmakers to enact amendments that will enable jurisdictions to impound vehicles longer than current limits, and prevent vehicles from being re-registered if there are any outstanding fines related to stunt driving violations. Such vehicle registration thresholds are currently in place for unpaid parking tickets and unpaid tolls.
- Dorsey’s resolution will also urge state lawmakers to speed implementation of AB 3 (Assemblymember Vince Fong) which provides for suspension of drivers licenses for sideshow participants for 90 days to six months. The law is currently slated to become operative on July 1, 2025.

- Dorsey is also preparing a letter in inquiry to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Department of Public Works, Police Department, and City Attorney to request information on physical changes to infrastructure that could be employed to more effectively deny stunt driving scofflaws the use and neighborhood intersections currently at risk for such lawless vehicular conduct.
- Dorsey is requesting that the Budget and Legislative Analyst for the Board of Supervisors survey law enforcement agencies in the Bay Area and prepare a report on strategies they employ — including their use of surveillance technologies — to deter, disrupt and enforce against stunt driving activities in their jurisdictions. Dorsey said such a report will better inform San Francisco policymakers on whether the City’s approach is keeping pace with other cities typically targeted for stunt driving events.
- Dorsey is also seeking guidance from the City Attorney’s Office on whether changes to state or local law would be necessary for San Francisco to assess costs to taxpayers for the enforcement, cleanup and repairs due to illegal stunt driving events — and then civilly pursue scofflaws to recover those costs.

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