

# City of Elk Grove **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **City Builds Support For Tough Street Racing Proposal** *Draws Attention to Issue at Major Gathering of California City Officials*

**ELK GROVE, CA** – The League of California Cities has gone on record in support of the city of Elk Grove's efforts to revise state law to allow for forfeiture of vehicles as a penalty for illegal street racing.

"We have zero tolerance for street racing in the Elk Grove community," said Mayor Rick Soares. "All cities in California should have the tools and flexibility that they need to eradicate dangerous, illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed. The city of Elk Grove is proud to partner with the League of California Cities and other communities statewide to help educate the legislature about this critical public safety issue."

The resolution adopted by the League of California Cities at its annual conference last week supports state legislation to expressly authorize cities and counties to – at their discretion – impose vehicle forfeiture as a penalty for street racing.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sophia Scherman, Councilman Dan Briggs, Councilman Mike Leary, City Manager John Danielson, Chief of Police Robert Simmons, and City Attorney Anthony Manzanetti all helped garner support for the city's resolution at the conference in San Diego.

Next year, the city and the League will co-sponsor state legislation that would expressly authorize the enactment of local ordinances that impose vehicle forfeiture as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed. Existing law does not appear to expressly authorize such local ordinances, which may make them vulnerable to court challenge.

The city of Elk Grove's resolution that was adopted by the League is below.

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**Source: City of Elk Grove**

**WHEREAS**, according to public safety professionals, illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed pose a real, serious threat to the health and safety of the public, interfere with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, create a public nuisance, and interfere with the right of individuals and businesses to enjoy the use of their property; and

**WHEREAS**, public health and safety can be enhanced when illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed are discouraged and prevented by the enactment of local ordinances that seek to impose forfeiture of vehicles used in such events as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed; and

**WHEREAS**, California state law does not appear to expressly authorize cities or counties to enact local ordinances that impose vehicle forfeiture as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the mission and core beliefs of the League of California Cities, providing cities and counties with the flexibility in state law to impose the penalty of vehicle forfeiture for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed enhances public safety and facilitates local control;

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED**, by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities, assembled in Annual Conference in San Diego, September 9, 2006, that the League co-sponsor state legislation to expressly authorize cities and counties to impose vehicle forfeiture as a penalty for illegal speed contests and exhibitions of speed.