



Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: Vice Mayor Chappie
Jones**

SUBJECT: ILLEGAL STREET RACING

DATE: March 30, 2021

APPROVED: *Chappie Jones*

DATE: 3/29/21

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct Staff to explore the use of Bott's Dots (round non-reflective raised pavement marker) as a physical deterrent for sideshows.
2. Direct the City Manager to explore reinstating the Racing Enforcement Detail of the San Jose Police Department.

ANALYSIS

San Jose has long faced a serious problem with illegal street racing and sideshows, which during the pandemic has come to plague our City with events popping up nightly. To curb this dangerous activity, we need to utilize every tool in our toolbox. [Contra Costa County Public Works](#) installed approximately 100 raised pavement markers called Bott's Dots at a popular intersection for side shows. This pilot is the first of its kind in combatting illegal side shows in the Bay Area. The raised pavement markers are 6 inches in diameter and 1 ¾ in height. Utilizing this technology would not inhibit everyday drivers, but would make it less attractive and uncomfortable for side shows to perform.

As the summer months' approach and the weather improves, side shows and their related illicit activities can be expected to rise. It is imperative that our San Jose Police Department have the resources and the training they need to be prepared for this potential uptick. Some of the side shows that have happened recently had upwards of 200 attendees. When the side shows are this large, it is not a situation where SJPD can send two officers in response and there is no task force or special unit assigned for this criminal activity. A rebirth of the Racer Enforcement Detail would allow for a team dedicated, and knowledgeable to this particular crime. Without a dedicated detail SJPD is forced to deploy additional officers on an overtime basis to work directly on the problem, or other times are forced to pull officers from the beat structure to address street racers. This causes increased response times and reduced coverage for other events in the City.

During 2017 and 2018 SJPD had at least five major campaigns against illegal racers working closely with CHP to address the racers and side show drivers. Reinstating a full time Racer Enforcement Detail would provide SJPD with the manpower to tackle this city-wide issue without pulling officers from the beat structure. Street racing is a very challenging issue, and one that will need to be addressed through many methods and techniques.