

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego Police Department, the California Highway Patrol (San Diego and El Cajon Office), and the National City Police Department Impounded Seven Vehicles involved in a Sideshow “Takeover” on December 9, 2023

San Diego – On the evening of December 9th, 2023, approximately 100 people attended a sideshow “takeover” at several intersections in San Diego County. The locations included Highland Avenue and E. 30th Street in National City, Industrial Boulevard and Main Street in Chula Vista, Dalbergia Street and Vesta Street in San Diego, and Home Avenue and Fairmount Avenue in San Diego. These dangerous acts often result in property damage, hit-and-run collisions, fraud, serious injuries and even death. These events present a serious danger to both participants and the public.

San Diego Police, El Cajon Police, National City Police, and San Diego California Highway Patrol officers identified over twenty vehicles and multiple individuals participating in these illegal events. On the morning of December 21, 2023, these agencies seized seven vehicles that had participated in these sideshows. Investigations are currently underway for felony vandalism, reckless driving, exhibition of speed, aiding and abetting, hit and run, and spectating at a sideshow.

The damages to the streets caused by these events will cost taxpayers approximately \$15,000 - \$24,000 to clean, re-slurry, and repaint each intersection. Involved drivers may face criminal prosecution for their participation in these sideshows.

Court orders have been obtained to seize additional vehicles for their participation and officers are currently conducting additional operations to impound these vehicles. The registered owners who fail to abide by the court order to surrender the vehicle may also face criminal prosecution.

State Bill 1472, signed by Governor Newsom on September 27, 2022, amended state law that changed the definition of gross negligence manslaughter to include those “participating in a sideshow, an exhibition of speed, and speeding over 100 miles per hour [§192(e)(2) PC].” Drivers

who willfully participate in illegal motor vehicle speed contests, exhibitions of speed, including intersection or freeway takeovers, motor vehicle stunts, and other willful similar acts involving a motor vehicle are extremely dangerous and deadly to human life. If drivers continue to willfully drive a vehicle in this fashion, with wanton disregard for their safety and the safety of others, and because of their driving, if someone is killed, they can also be charged with murder.

The San Diego Police Department does not condone these illegal, inherently dangerous stunts on our shared roadways. Those committed to continuing their involvement in these criminal acts will face arrest and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

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