



OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ocean City, Maryland 21842

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1493

March 10, 2020

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Attn: Chairman, Kumar P. Barve
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the Ocean City Police Department – as its Chief, I am honored and humbled to stand before you in full support of House Bill 1493 – Worcester County – Special Event Zones – Prohibitions.

Currently, on an annual basis, the Town of Ocean City experiences several major motor events. Each event brings tens of thousands of visitors, most who assume the roles of participants and spectators. With the exception of an unsanctioned vehicle Pop-Up Rally which occurs annually in late September, all other events in question are sanctioned events.

By their very nature and from a public safety standpoint, the motor events bring a high degree of challenges which include major traffic congestion in conjunction with a large number of motorists who willfully and repeatedly violate established traffic laws, i.e., speeding, drag racing, spinning tires, as well as operating their respective vehicles on roadways in an irresponsible and dangerous manner. On many occasions these activities are occurring in close proximity to spectators and the general public. This has truly become a recipe for disaster.

The sheer volume of violations which continue to rise year after year, and the existing penalties are having virtually no effect as a deterrent in addressing these very dangerous situations. This has not only become a serious public safety issue, but also a serious safety issue to law enforcement officers as well. While we remain vigilant in our enforcement efforts, motorists are becoming increasingly brazen, aggressive and reckless in their behavior.

In an effort to address this phenomenon, the Ocean City Police Department deploys its entire force and in addition receives support from a number of additional law enforcement agencies: Maryland State Police, Maryland Transportation Authority Police, Worcester County Sheriff's Office, Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office and Maryland Natural Resources Police. Year after year, despite additional resources and with our collective best efforts, we continue to experience a tremendous increasing refusal to comply on the part of motorists.

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With its passage, House Bill 1493 would provide additional tools for law enforcement in an effort to better serve and protect the public.

Thank you once again for providing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of this very important Bill.

We respectfully request that this Committee provide House Bill 1493 with a favorable report.



Ross Buzzuro

Chief of Police

Ocean City Police Department

