



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

March 10, 2020

Environment and Transportation Committee

Room 250
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 1493 Worcester County- Special Event Zones- Prohibitions

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

First, I would like to thank the committee for allowing us to speak today on behalf of this House Bill. As a member of the City Council and a resident, I have seen the impact firsthand from multiple viewpoints. During these events, a large percent of the participants shows little respect for our laws, our law enforcement officers and our community as a whole. They refer to our home as the strip. My residence is in the middle of the main corridor of the "strip". From my balcony, I have repeatedly witnessed the disrespect to our community as a whole all hours of the day and night.

From my residence's vantage point, I look at the permanent stains left from participants doing donuts on the roof our parking garage. When I would look down the street to the 45th street light, you could see hundreds of people physically in the street while cars were doing burnouts. That mix of behavior is dangerous to everyone involved and near the out of control activities. In the private parking lots of Satellite Café and Dry 85 restaurant, participants were causing excessive noise with vehicles and huge crowds. A little further north at 48th street, participants were seen skidding and spinning wheels for the crowds of onlookers from the Ocean Colony balconies until 3:00 a.m.

In that midtown area, it is expected to have a lot of pedestrian traffic on a regular basis. There are several restaurant and bar establishments in that area. As a city, we have taken proactive steps by installing a median fence to help reduce the number of pedestrians crossing the highway not in designated crosswalks. When the large crowds begin to spill into the highway to get up close and personnel with vehicles doing burnouts, the avenues of a safe exit are narrowed down if a vehicle lost control like it did this past year. The Town of Ocean City strives to protect the residents and visitors to the absolute best of our abilities. The disregard to safety and livelihood that comes with these motor events goes against our vision of a family friendly resort community.

We need assistance from our legislators to help support and aid our Motor Vehicle Event Task Force with creating successful strategies to prevent this behavior. This legislation is supported across the board in Ocean City. I strongly and respectfully request that this committee provide **House Bill 1493 Worcester County- Special Event Zones- Prohibitions** with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. DeLuca

City Council Member

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RICHARD W. MEEHAN

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