



Foothills Community Policing Council

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RECOMMENDATION: Safety: Street Racing in Foothills Area Command at Manzano Mesa Park and Caracol Plaza, Tramway Boulevard, and other locations

SAFETY CONCERN: Two areas (Manzano Mesa Park and Caracol Plaza) of the Foothills Command have experienced serious public danger and disruption resulting from street racing. Large gatherings (historically on Sundays at Manzano Mesa Park and Saturdays at Caracol Plaza) begin as a public nuisance and disturbance of the peace but then as numbers increase to the hundreds rapidly escalates to extreme public endangerment. These have become more pronounced in the last 1 ½ years. Two serious life-threatening accidents (photographs available) have occurred in recent months. Residents and businesses in the area have been deprived of quality of life due to safety hazards created by these gatherings.

RECOMMENDATION for Foothills Area Command:

1. Signage should be placed in these two locations: "Street racing prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted."
2. A FH CPC committee member contact Commander Collins and/or Lt. Garrett if gatherings begin so that officers can be dispatched immediately before the gathering becomes too large to control.
3. When called to the scene, Officers will issue citations immediately to violators and issue warnings to on-lookers.
4. Officers will be briefed to patrol these areas for indications of large gatherings per historical need (Sunday from 2 pm forward- Manzano Mesa Park; Saturday evenings- Caracol Plaza)

RECOMMENDATION for City Wide Street Racing:

Dedicate at least 6 officers city-wide for 2 or 3 weekend evening shifts, with parks and racing areas their sole focus. Officers so assigned would not take regular CADS (Computer-Assisted Dispatch System) calls for service. If problems develop in one area the officer there can summon aid within 10 or 15 minutes. Cost to APD would be less than 0.2% of wage-hours.

Positive results from collaboration between community and Foothills Command:

Foothills CPC wrote a letter of commendation to Commander Collins and his officers for the outstanding reversal of this problem at the Manzano Mesa Park Area. The residents and businesses were extremely happy with the results of Commander Collins' initiative since April. That initiative failed over the weekend of June 5 and 6, with a large and disruptive crowd and street racing in the Manzano Mesa Park, surrounding area and the southern end of Eubank. For these reasons, this CPC strongly recommends a city-wide approach to control of this problem.