



ORDINANCE NO. 28748

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS HUNTER,
2 McCARTHY, AND THOMS

3 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Model Traffic Ordinance; amending Chapter 11.05
4 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, the Model Traffic Ordinance, by adding
5 thereto a new Section 11.05.132, to be known and designated as “Unlawful
6 exhibition of speed prohibited,” relating to illegal speed exhibition activities
7 within City of Tacoma limits; and directing the City Manager to collect data
8 on the enforcement of this ordinance and to present findings and
9 recommendations to the City Council on the efficacy of this ordinance, with a
10 focus on racial equity, no later than six months after implementation by the
11 Tacoma Police Department.

12 WHEREAS the City currently has laws in place and enforcement tools that
13 the Tacoma Police Department (“TPD”) uses to respond to street racing and street
14 exhibitions, but it does not have specific code provisions related directly to unlawful
15 exhibitions of speed, and

16 WHEREAS current laws used by TPD to address speed exhibitions include
17 “reckless endangerment,” “failure to disperse,” “obedience to police officers,” and
18 “interference with free use of streets prohibited,” and

19 WHEREAS many residents have reached out to the City and elected officials
20 to voice concerns about the public safety hazard that exhibitions of speed activities
21 pose; these residents are concerned not only about the threat of injury or loss of life
22 to people in the vicinity of these activities, but also of the individuals directly
23 involved, and

24 WHEREAS many of Tacoma’s neighboring cities have adopted ordinances
25 specific to street racing; recently, the City of Fife adopted an emergency ordinance
26 to include specific language addressing exhibitions of speed, which adds activities



such as burnouts, donuts, weaving, drifting, and leaving tire marks on the pavement
1 to the definition of unlawful race activity, and

2 WHEREAS the Pierce County Executive has convened meetings to discuss
3 policy options and a regional approach to increased street racing and speed
4 exhibition events, and City Manager Elizabeth Pauli, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and
5 Council Member Lillian Hunter have attended these meetings alongside
6 representatives from Fife, Puyallup, Sumner, Lakewood, University Place, DuPont,
7 Bonney Lake, Gig Harbor, Edgewood, Orting, and Steilacoom, and

9 WHEREAS the City is awaiting the results of the Pierce County Force
10 Investigation Team investigation and the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's
11 Office review into the events of January 23, 2021, and will take all appropriate
12 actions after the findings are released, and

14 WHEREAS the City desires to enact law which addresses illegal exhibitions
15 of speed, making it clear that these dangerous activities are not welcome in
16 Tacoma, and

18 WHEREAS having laws in place that address the specific activity that the
19 City seeks to deter will provide TPD officers with the enforcement tools necessary
20 to promote public safety related to unlawful exhibitions of speed, and

22 WHEREAS the City Council will direct the City Manager to collect data,
23 including the city of residence of all individuals receiving a citation, on the
24 enforcement of this ordinance in alignment with best practices currently under
25 development as prescribed in Amended Resolution No. 40685, and to provide
26 findings and recommendations to the City Council on the efficacy of this ordinance



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

to reduce illegal exhibitions of speed activities in Tacoma, with a focus on racial equity, no later than six months after implementation; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.

Section 2. That Chapter 11.05 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, the Model Traffic Ordinance, is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a new Section 11.05.132, to be known and designated as “Unlawful exhibition of speed prohibited,” as set forth in the attached Exhibit “A.”

Section 3. That the City Manager is hereby directed to collect data, including the city of residence of all individuals receiving a citation, on the enforcement of this ordinance in alignment with best practices currently under development as prescribed in Amended Resolution No. 40685; and the City Manager is further directed to provide findings and recommendations on the efficacy of this ordinance



1 to reduce illegal exhibitions of speed activities in Tacoma, with a focus on racial
2 equity, no later than six months after implementation by the Tacoma Police
3 Department.
4

5 Passed _____
6

7 _____
8 Mayor

9 Attest:
10 _____
11 City Clerk

12 Approved as to form:
13 _____
14 Deputy City Attorney

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26



EXHIBIT "A"

**CHAPTER 11.05
MODEL TRAFFIC ORDINANCE**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Sections:

- 11.05.010 Model Traffic Ordinance adopted.
- 11.05.020 Sections not adopted.
- 11.05.030 Statutes not adopted.
- 11.05.035 *Repealed.*
- 11.05.040 Amendment of WAC 308-330-555.
- 11.05.050 Additional statutes adopted.
- 11.05.060 Scope and construction of terms.
- 11.05.070 Curb defined.
- 11.05.080 Driveway defined.
- 11.05.090 Driveway return defined.
- 11.05.100 Fire line defined.
- 11.05.110 Fire zone defined.
- 11.05.120 Leaving minors unattended.
- 11.05.130 Driving while eating or drinking.
- 11.05.131 Automotive Sound Systems – Excessive Noise Prohibition.

11.05.132 Unlawful exhibition of speed prohibited.

* * *

* * *

11.05.132 Unlawful exhibition of speed prohibited.

A. "Unlawful exhibition of speed" means the operation of a motor vehicle to present a display of speed, maneuverability, or power. "Speed exhibition" includes, but is not limited to, squealing the tires of a motor vehicle while it is stationary or in motion, rapid acceleration, rapid swerving or weaving, drifting, producing smoke from tire slippage, or leaving visible tire acceleration marks on the surface of the highway or ground.

B. Any person who operates a motor vehicle in or during an unlawful exhibition of speed is guilty of a misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to 90 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, or by both such imprisonment and fine. Actions taken pursuant to a lawfully issued City permit are not a violation of this section.

* * *