

NATIONAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

UNITED LOW RIDER COALITION MAY 6, 2022 CRUISE NIGHT EVENT ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS PLAN

The National City Police Department is committed to working with United Low Rider Coalition (ULRC) to have a safe and enjoyable event for all participants. The intent of this document is to provide an overall assessment, guidance and recommendations to ULRC to mitigate future issues that were encountered or observed by the Police Department during the first event that took place on May 6, 2022 on Highland Avenue.

As part of this recommendation, the Police Department will request the City Engineering / Public Works Department to conduct an evaluation the need to amend the Temporary Use Permit (TUP) and require ULRC to have event related traffic signage posted along the route and other affected areas as the traffic congestion during the first event was extraordinary (Item #5).

In addition, due to the unprecedented number of vehicles and spectators, and the public safety issues listed below, the Police Department is amending the TUP requirements for police services. A total of one Police Sergeant and six Police Officers will be dedicated to the upcoming event (June 3, 2022) on an overtime basis. The deployment of 1 Sergeant and 6 Officers will continue for future events and may be increased to add more officers and Public Works personnel as needed to address public safety concerns. The current cost for services is listed below.

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT:

The UCLR applied for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) with the City of National City to hold a low rider "Cruise Night" events on the first Friday of each month, May through October 2022. Each event would start at 6pm and end at 9pm. The TUP and conditions of the TUP was ultimately approved by City Council and authorized to move forward.

The TUP documented that the event coordinators would begin the set up process at 3:30 pm and the event would kick off at 5:00pm at Sweetwater High School. At 6:00 pm, the cruising portion of the event would commence onto Highland Avenue. The cruisers would travel on Highland Avenue between East 24th Street and East 6th Street. At 9:00 pm, the event would conclude and members of the ULRC would begin cleaning up Highland Avenue.

ISSUES / RECOMMENDATIONS:

Below are some of the issues encountered during the first event held on May 6, 2022.

1. According to the TUP, "Cruise Night" would start vehicles cruising at 6:00pm and the event would end at 9:00pm.

Cruising began earlier than listed in the TUP as not only cars began cruising up and down Highland Avenue, spectators began setting up in parking lots up and down the

street well in advance of the actual start time of the event. The event continued until 11:30pm even though the TUP stated 9:00pm end time.

10:30 PM

The Police Department is recommending the following to address the above issue:

- a. Post to social media for all participants, spectators and others to abide by the timeline of the event. ✓
 - b. Create flyers to pass out to all participants, spectators and others involved or attending the event to ensure that the time of the event start and end is known and adhered to by all. ✓
 - c. Have a messaging app or message thread to all participants and send out timeline notifications indicating the start and end time of the event so everyone is aware that it is time to end the event. ✓
 - d. Register participants and have placards for those registered so that there is more accountability to the TUP requirements. ✓
 - e. ULRC to provide ongoing communication with participants throughout the event(s) to ensure TUP requirements are being followed. ✓
2. During the event, numerous vehicles were not following the rules of the road as stated in the TUP.

Many vehicles were activating the hydraulics causing the vehicle to rise off the ground and jump, riding on 3 wheels, and purposely stopping and blocking traffic so others could take photographs. Many vehicles that participated in the cruising played loud music, used their horn, illegal sirens unnecessarily. Some passengers exited their vehicles while on the roadway, while the vehicle was in motion or stopped. Other passengers were seen hanging out of their vehicles.

The Police Department is recommending the following to address the above issue:

- a. In order to ensure that all participants follow the rules of the road, post that the above actions listed are not allowed and are a violation of the California Vehicle Code and are subject to enforcement. The Police Department can provide the specific vehicle code sections if the ULRC wants the information.
 - b. Explain / inform the participants the Police Department may issue traffic citations for these violations and / or impound their vehicles.
3. Prior to the event start time, participants and spectators parked and staged in various business parking lots along Highland Avenue. Some of the vehicles / spectators remained in the lots for extended periods of time. There was reported open containers and consumption of alcohol that took place. This was not specifically addressed in the TUP, however, as the event(s) organizers, the ULRC needs to more proactive to mitigate the issue.

Many of these large gatherings of people and vehicles blocked access through the lots, parked in restricted zones such as marked red zones, emergency thoroughfares, driveways, spilling out to roadways.

The Police Department is recommending the following to address the above issue:

- a. Post to social media for all participants, spectators and others to not park in business parking lots as they are continuing to conduct business and customers need access. Provide education to participants that while the parking lots are accessible to the public, they are considered private property. It is extremely important the ULRC educate and emphasize that having open containers and the consumption of alcohol in public is prohibited and subject to a citation and/or arrest by the Police Department.
 - b. ULRC Members wear high visibility vests walk Highland Avenue and educate and direct participants not to park and stage in business parking lots. The ULRC needs to work to get voluntary compliance in order to minimize police calls for service by business owners requesting to have their parking lots cleared.
 - c. At least two weeks prior to each event, ULRC Members need to provide businesses and residents on Highland Avenue written notices that their cruising event(s) may cause traffic delays or impact their parking lots. This allows business owners to make arrangements (hire security, close their parking lots, or change their business hours) to deal with the potential impact of the event.
4. Event coordinators should not confront anyone committing a crime.

During the event, a group of ULRC Members confronted a group tagging a business. The situation escalated when the suspects were confronted and brandished knives.

The Police Department is recommending the following to address the above issue:

- a. ULRC Members should not confront anyone committing crimes, rather, they should observe and report the incident immediately to police.
 - b. Witnesses can assist police by obtaining as much information as possible: descriptions of the suspects including clothing, the last direction of travel, if there were any vehicles, if anyone is in need of medical attention. Be a good witness and avoid becoming a crime victim.
5. The TUP estimated 200 participants and a crowd of 50.

Due to the size of the event, the actual number of vehicles, participants and spectators it was clear that the TUP severely under estimated the expected number. Traffic was severely impacted the entire length of Highland Avenue. Due to the congestion, MTS buses had to be rerouted, traffic merging on and off State Route 54 was impacted, and entrance into National City via Highland Avenue from San Diego and National City was

severely delayed. Additionally, the traffic congestion is a serious concern in that it may delay emergency vehicles from responding to medical or emergency calls.

The Police Department is recommending the following to address the above issue:

- PAY
- a. Reduce the number of participants by registering car clubs and provide placards for participants.
 - b. City Engineering / Public Works to evaluate requiring as part of the TUP, electronic road signage for eastbound and westbound traffic on SR54, notifying commuters of the event and expected traffic delays. The same electronic road signage should be considered for commuters traveling south from San Diego and north from Chula Vista.
 - c. City Engineering / Public Works to evaluate requiring as part of the TUP, electronic or stationary road signage on all lighted intersections on Highland Avenue, directing drivers not to block the intersections.
 - d. City Engineering / Public Works to evaluate requiring as part of the TUP the need for No Parking Signs on Highland Avenue, north and south, from East. 6th Street to East 24th Street.
 - e. To further mitigate the traffic congestion and the blocking of intersections, the ULRC should educate participants to follow the rules of the road by posting on social media or hand out flyers that the above actions listed are not allowed and are a violation of the California Vehicle Code and are subject to enforcement. The Police Department can provide the specific vehicle code sections if the ULRC wants the information.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Ensure that ULRC Members have the ability to communicate directly with the police liaison. The ULRC should designate a minimum of three members that have the authority to make decisions or delegate duties to others in the event there are issues that need to be addressed.

REQUIRED POLICE SERVICES:

- A total of one Police Sergeant and six Police Officers will be dedicated to the event on an overtime basis, from 4:30 pm – 11:30 pm (7 hours).

Cost: Officers - \$152.33 per hour / Sergeant - \$202.21 per hour

Total:	\$6,397.86	(6 Officers)
	<u>\$1,415.47</u>	(1 Sergeant)
	\$7,813.33	

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