



Media Alert

www.waynecounty.com/sheriff

BENNY N. NAPOLEON
Sheriff

Contact: Paula Bridges 313.354.5223

COURT RULES AGAINST DRIVERS CAUGHT STREET RACING

6 Cars forfeited in today's proceedings, drivers to relinquish vehicles immediately.

Detroit (October 11, 2012) – Another victory in court today as a judge tells drivers to turn over the keys to the vehicles they used to drag race down Detroit area streets. The seizures occurred at chaotic scenes at the intersections of Fort/Woodmere and also Warren/Livernois in late July. Today's forfeitures included:

- **1997 Ford Mustang** (owner appeared in court and stated her son was drag racing in the vehicle)
- **1988 Ford Mustang** (owner did not contest forfeiture)
- **1984 Chevy S-10** (Redford Township owner outfitted vehicle with nitrous oxide)
- **1996 Cadillac** (River Rouge owner stated her son was drag racing in the vehicle)
- **1994 Camaro** (Owner stated her son was drag racing in the vehicle, investigators also witnessed car doing donuts with a passenger hanging out of the car)
- **2001 Mustang** (Detroit owner stated his girlfriend's son took the car without permission to drag race)

The cases were heard today by Judge Virgil Smith at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center who stated "the evidence was overwhelming." Street racing is illegal and terrorizes citizens who are subjected to the chaos and violence that come with it. In the last year, two people have been fatally shot, two officers wounded by gunfire and many others hurt in crashes. In addition to the violence, officers have made arrests on narcotics, morality and weapons violations. Minors have also been detained. Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon has vowed to curb the dangerous pastime.

"Today's rulings will go a long way to show we are serious about ending this nonsense. Drag racing is dangerous, it threatens lives and ruins the peace that hardworking citizens deserve in their neighborhoods," said Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. **"These defendants have had to relinquish their cars because of their actions and if the drag racing continues, they won't be alone."**

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and Detroit Police are vital partners in the crackdown on illegal street racing. Confiscated vehicles may be auctioned off to support ongoing narcotics and law enforcement operations for the agency. **If illegal street racing is occurring in your neighborhood, call the Wayne County Sheriff's Office tipline at (313) 833-3190. Your call is anonymous.**

#####