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Street Racing Conviction Leads to Jail Time

Chula Vista driver was observed going 90 mph while racing 5 other cars on I-15

San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott announced today that a Chula Vista man has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and one year of probation after being caught racing five other drivers on Interstate 15.

The August 29, 2022, incident occurred just south of the Interstate 8/Interstate 15 interchange at about 12:50 a.m. and was an especially flagrant example of the speed contests, street races, and exhibitions of speed that endanger motorists and pedestrians throughout San Diego.

“This sentence shows how seriously my Office, law enforcement, and the courts take these reckless incidents on public roadways,” City Attorney Mara Elliott said. **“I created a Street Racing Task Force to protect the public from drivers who recklessly endanger the lives of themselves and others.”**

According to court testimony, California Highway Patrol officers saw a group of slow-moving vehicles with their hazard lights activated on I-15. The officers recognized this as an intentional maneuver to help set up a street race, so they bypassed the slow-moving vehicles and saw six vehicles accelerate rapidly.

One of the six vehicles was a gray Honda Civic. The driver and registered owner of the Honda Civic is Victor Manuel Guillins.

The officers testified in court that Guillins’ car reached speeds of approximately 90 mph and veered between lanes. Officers also saw Guillins open his driver’s side door while he was accelerating. The dangerous combination of these Vehicle Code violations drew

officers' attention specifically to Guillins' car, despite other vehicles participating in the speed contest.

The officers attempted a traffic stop, but Guillins changed course at the last possible second. He finally exited the freeway at Home Avenue, after being pursued by officers for nearly three minutes.

The jury also heard from San Diego Police Sgt. John Ampol, who testified as an expert on street racing.

“SDPD was proud to partner with the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego City Attorney’s Office in this case,” Sgt. Ampol said. “We are committed to holding accountable those who endanger the public with stunt driving and sideshow activities.”

The 40-year-old Guillins was charged with one count of street racing and one count of evading an officer. After he was found guilty of street racing by a jury last week, Superior Court Judge Steven Stone sentenced Guillins.

The penalties for street racing incidents are due to increase. The state legislature has passed a law that will add up to a 6-month suspension of a driver license for offenders. It will go into effect in July 2025.

This case is being handled by Deputy City Attorney Alex Griffen of the Neighborhood Justice Unit, under the supervision of Interim Chief Deputy City Attorney Natasha Robertson and Assistant City Attorney Paige Folkman.

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