FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven Police Implement New Drag Racing Initiative over the Weekend

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – On Saturday, August 22, 2020, the New Haven Police Department began enhanced enforcement of motor vehicle laws for drag racing. The enforcement was aimed at those motor vehicle operators and participants who engage in street racing, reckless driving, and illegal obstruction of city streets. During the effort, which began at sunset and went into the overnight, uniformed, and plainclothes officers and detectives monitored areas of the city where drag racing has been reported or known to occur. Law enforcement personnel shut down motor vehicle traffic and took enforcement action whenever racing started.

“Drag racing is dangerous and takes away police resources from responding to other important calls. Many people have been coming to New Haven from outside the City to participate in illegal racing. The City will be working to make sure we put a stop to this activity,” said New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.

Assistant Chief of Operations Renee Dominguez said, “Our efforts are in response to citizen complaints and public safety concerns for other motorists, pedestrian spectators, and the drag racers themselves. This weekend’s enforcement resulted in no reported injuries to the motoring public, racers, or our officers,” she concluded.

While officers monitored Foxon Boulevard and other locations this weekend, most of the enforcement was conducted when racers gathered near a Sargent Drive gas station; on a portion of Ella Grasso Boulevard in the Hill section of New Haven; and near Fort Hale Park.
Whenever possible, officers made arrests by issuing misdemeanor summonses rather than by making custodial arrests. This weekend’s enforcement resulted in the following:

- 16 misdemeanor summonses.
- 18 infraction tickets.
- Nine vehicles towed.
- Two custodial arrests.
- One arrest warrant served.
- Five drug arrests.

New Haven Police Chief Otoniel Reyes added, “We are committed to addressing this quality of life issue in a safe manner that fits within our department policies and holds violators accountable. We will increase our enforcement efforts to include the use of noise meters, window tint meters, and additional speed enforcement devices.”

###

165 Church Street, New Haven, CT 06510