



Office of Communications
City of Beverly Hills
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Below is the opening statement from Beverly Hills Police Chief Dominick Rivetti at this morning's press conference regarding the recent reckless driving incident in Beverly Hills.

The City of Beverly Hills is outraged about recent incidents of reckless driving on our streets. The Police Department has zero tolerance for unsafe driving, which seriously endangers the lives and property of others. Regardless of who you are, who you know or where you are from. The Beverly Hills Police Department has a reputation of applying the law equally.

On Saturday, September 12, 2015 at approximately 6:45 pm, officers responded to a call of racing vehicles in the area of the 700 block of N. Walden Drive.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with several residents who described the involved vehicles as a yellow Ferrari and a white Porsche and reported that the vehicles were driving at a high rate of speed and running stop signs. These reports were verified later by video footage of the incident.

The officers were approached by an individual who indicated that the vehicles belonged to him and denied driving recklessly. He claimed to have diplomatic immunity.

Our subsequent research indicates that it is unlikely that the drivers had diplomatic immunity. Through Law Enforcement resources, Qatar National Sheikh Khalid Hamad Al-Thani has been connected with the yellow Ferrari depicted in the video. At this time we have information that leads us to believe that he has left the country.

Officers were unable to make any arrests or issue citations at the time of the incident because they did not witness the incident nor did any violations occur in their presence, and none of the witnesses were willing to make a private person's arrest. Per California State Law, misdemeanor crimes need to be witnessed by an officer to affect an arrest or issue citation.

We want to make it very clear that regardless of the diplomatic status of the drivers, the Beverly Hills Police Department will stop and take necessary enforcement action against anyone caught driving recklessly.

Our officers are on the alert for the vehicles seen in the video, and are prepared to take enforcement action including issuing traffic citations, impounding the vehicles and arresting individuals when appropriate. We have stepped up enforcement for reckless activity in the neighborhood where the incident took place.



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In addition, our Federal counterparts with the US Department of State have been in contact the Qatari Consulate to convey the City's perspective of the incident.

The Beverly Hills Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the drivers of the vehicles involved and any additional video footage. The Police Department will pursue prosecution if legally possible, by seeking a criminal complaint through the District Attorney's Office against the suspects involved.

Witnesses are encouraged to call BHPD 24 hour Tip-line at 310-288-2656. Videos, photos or additional information can be submitted to: BHPDInfo@beverlyhills.org.

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