

RESOLUTION NO. 99-36

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS
OPPOSING THE SALE AND USE OF COLOR-TREAD TIRES**

WHEREAS, B.F. Goodrich Tires, a unit of Michelin, has announced plans to market the "Scorcher T/A line of tires having colored tread bands, and these colored tread bands are capable of leaving colored markings on street and roadway surfaces in the same manner as black tread marks are left on these surfaces, and

WHEREAS, the B.F. Goodrich promotional material also makes clear that these tires will leave these colors in the tread (skid) marks left on street surfaces during rapid acceleration and hard braking stops, and

WHEREAS, B.F. Goodrich Tires has chosen the colors Red, Blue and Yellow for these tire tread colors, and the colors Red and Blue are the 2 primary colors chosen by gangs, regardless of the nature, background or ethnic makeup of the gangs, and gang members are "loyal" to their color choice and gang members are prone to violent behavior against anyone displaying a color of an opposing gang, and

WHEREAS, B.F. Goodrich promotional material makes clear that these colored-tread tires are intended for the "customization" after-market for cars, and this market segment is usually considered to be adolescent males, and these males are usually the primary age group of gang members in California, and

WHEREAS, leaving such markings is adding to the environmental hazards of contaminants left on street surfaces, where rain water runoffs into storm drains can carry these hazards into rivers, creeks, bays, deltas, and other such waterways, creating environmental and water quality problems, and

WHEREAS, it is illegal to encourage anyone directly or indirectly to willfully leave tread marks on streets, and the color tread tires will encourage dangerous driving consisting of fast accelerations and braking in order to leave color markings on the street, and

WHEREAS, the dangerous driving will cause car accidents which may result in serious injuries and death to innocent bystanders, and

WHEREAS, gang members are known to leave graffiti written in their gang color in opposing gang territory to insult and intimidate rival gangs, thereby provoking violent actions in response from the rival gangs, and

WHEREAS, color-tread tires will provide a new means for gangs to leave their color marking in rival gangs territory, and such markings will be very difficult to remove, increasing the level of insult and intimidation imposed on the rival gangs, and

WHEREAS, the behavior of one gang leaving colored graffiti markings in a rival gang's territory has been well-documented to provide violent responses, including physical assaults, including shootings, stabbings, and other violent actions, sometimes resulting in death, ad often involving innocent bystanders who become victims,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council Of the City of Los Altos that:

1. The City Council of the City of Los Altos asks B.F. Goodrich Tires, Michelin Company, and any other company who is considering selling color-tread tires, to act in a responsible manner, and to voluntarily abandon the colored-tread tire product line in order to prevent the safety, environmental and social problems these tires will undoubtedly cause,
2. The City of Los Altos will support State and Federal legislation prohibiting the use of these color-tread tires on our streets and roadways,
3. The City of Los Altos will take all steps available to prevent the use of color-tread tires in the City of Los Altos.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Los Altos at a regular meeting thereof held on the 12th day of October, 1999, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Becker, Councilmembers Casto, La Poll, Lear, and Moss

NOES: None

ABSENT: None



Louis E. Becker, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carol Scharz, City Clerk