

Proposed Catalytic Converter Ordinance Presentation



April 2, 2024
City Council Meeting

Catalytic Converter Definition

Any exhaust means any exhaust emission control device, or portion thereof, that converter toxic gases and pollutants in exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine into less-toxic pollutants



Catalytic Converter Statistics - Stolen

2020 – 178

2021 – 482

2022 – 595

2023 – 302

*California accounts for 37% of stolen catalytic converters nationwide (US Attorney's Office)

California Law (2023)

- SB 1087, requires core recyclers to provide documentation signifying the catalytic converter being purchased by the core recycler was obtained by the seller in a legal manner. (21610 B&P)
- AB 1740, requires people or businesses who buy catalytic converters to document the purchase by recording the year, make, model, and VIN number of the car that the converter came from. (21610 B&P)
- AB 641, made it an infraction to be in possession of at least nine catalytic converters that have been cut from a vehicle. (11500 VC)

Current Challenges

- The ease and undetectable nature of committing the thefts in a matter of seconds using common tools such as a reciprocating saw
- The ability to recycle catalytic converters at scrap metal yards for high dollar returns ranging from \$200 to \$1,200 per catalytic converter, and
- Loopholes in legislation that only allow law enforcement to arrest individuals in possession of a catalytic converter if it can be proven to have been stolen from a particular victim.

Proposed Ordinance

Unlawful Possession of Catalytic Converter

- It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a core recycler as defined in California Business and Professions Code section 21610, to possess any catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle, unless the possessor has valid documentation or other proof to verify that they are in lawful possession of the catalytic converter.

Violations

- Misdemeanor and/or
- \$1,000 fine

Similar Ordinances

South San Francisco

San Jose

Vallejo

Los Angeles

Fullerton

Huntington Beach

Irvine

Public Education Campaign

- Announcement of Ordinance and Crime Prevention Tips
 - Social Media
 - Nixle
 - Community Organizations
 - Home Owners Association
 - Business Groups

Recommendation

Adopt an ordinance adding Chapter 4-43 “Prohibition Of Unlawful Possession Of Catalytic Converters” to Title 4 “Public Welfare” Of The San Leandro Municipal Code To Prohibit Unlawful Possession Of Catalytic Converters