

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Peter Thorson, City Attorney

DATE: March 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Introduce Ordinance Adding Chapter 9.90 Unlawful Possession of a Catalytic Converter to the Temecula Municipal Code (At the Request of Subcommittee Members Mayor Pro Tem Kalfus and Council Member Alexander)

PREPARED BY: Betsy Lowrey, Assistant to the City Manager

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council introduce an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TEMECULA ADDING CHAPTER 9.90, UNLAWFUL
POSSESSION OF A CATALYTIC CONVERTER, TO THE
TEMECULA MUNICIPAL CODE

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE: The City of Temecula's proposed ordinance establishes that it is unlawful for any person to possess any catalytic converter which is not attached to a vehicle unless the person has verifiable, valid proof of ownership of the catalytic converter.

BACKGROUND: At the request of Public Safety Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members Mayor Pro Tem Kalfus and Council Member Jessica Alexander, the City Attorney drafted an ordinance to provide the City and its Sheriff's Department with reasonable means to address the impact on the community and the victims of catalytic converter thefts. The theft of catalytic converters has been an increasing problem throughout Southern California in recent years. The external location of catalytic converters on vehicles, and the use of valuable precious metals, including rhodium, palladium and platinum, in catalytic converters makes these devices a target for thieves. Individuals in possession of stolen catalytic converters often recycle them for substantial profit, while victims of these thefts suffer the consequences of paying thousands of dollars in repairs, the inconvenience of repairing their vehicles, and feeling unsafe in the community.

While there have been legislative attempts in Sacramento to crack down on catalytic converter thefts, local agencies in California have begun to pass similar ordinances to assist law enforcement in holding individuals accountable for their crimes. Similar to the County of Riverside's recently adopted ordinance related to catalytic converter thefts, the City's proposed ordinance establishes

that it is unlawful for any person to possess any catalytic converter which is not attached to a vehicle unless the person has verifiable, valid proof of ownership of the catalytic converter.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance