

JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CURB THEFTS OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

Los Angeles – Today, Councilmember John Lee introduced legislation requesting the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the unlawful possession of catalytic converters without proof of ownership.

“Thefts of catalytic converters have been on the rise for the past few years,” said Councilmember Lee. “We’ve seen other cities approve measures to put an end to this pervasive problem and it’s time for the City of Los Angeles to do the same.”

Catalytic converters have become a lucrative item for thieves due to their external location on vehicles and usage of precious metals including rhodium, palladium, and platinum. Catalytic converters can be sold for up to \$1,200 depending on the amount and value of metals in each one but pose a significantly higher cost for owners who have to pay for both the replacement part and the repair.

The Los Angeles Police Department reports that theft of catalytic converters has grown rampantly in the past few years. In 2021, there were 5,880 thefts reported, compared to only 972 in 2018. While this trend has spiked nationwide, California specifically leads the country in thefts.

“Thieves are becoming more brazen with their criminal activity,” continued Lee. “It is our duty to provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to be able to identify the thieves that are conducting this type of criminal activity, and to hold them accountable for their actions that are affecting so many throughout the City of Los Angeles.”

Councilmember Lee’s motion, which was seconded by 13th District Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell and 2nd District Councilmember Paul Krekorian, was referred to the Council’s Public Safety Committee.

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Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee represents the Twelfth Council District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley which includes the communities of Northridge, Chatsworth, Granada Hills, North Hills West, West Hills, Porter Ranch, and Sherwood Forest.