



Contact:

Roger Quintanilla, Communications Deputy
Email: Roger.quintanilla@lacity.org
Phone: 213-473-7012

**April 11, 2023
For Immediate Release**

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PASSES ORDINANCE TO MAKE POSSESSION OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS WITHOUT PROOF OF OWNERSHIP UNLAWFUL

Los Angeles – Today the Los Angeles City Council approved an ordinance making the possession of catalytic converters without proof of ownership unlawful. Under this new ordinance introduced by Councilmember John Lee, individuals carrying an unattached catalytic converter must also have documentation demonstrating their lawful possession of the item.

The type of documentation required includes but is not limited to, the bill of sale from the original owner with photographs, documentation from an auto-body shop demonstrating relinquished ownership of the converter to the body shop, or verifiable electronic communication from the previous owner relinquishing ownership to the current possessor. Individuals caught with a catalytic converter and without proof of ownership may now face a misdemeanor charge and fine of up to \$1,000.00 for each infraction.

“People go months without the vehicles that they rely on for work, to drop off their kids at school, to visit loved ones,” said Councilmember John Lee. “It’s an unexpected cost in the thousands of dollars and let’s make no mistake, this is a crime happening to the constituents in our communities and one that we are failing to act on if we do not pass this today.”

Catalytic converters are a lucrative item for thieves due to their external location on vehicles and their 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 while also posing a significantly higher cost for owners who have to pay for both the replacement part and the cost of labor. The Los Angeles Police Department reports that theft of catalytic converters has grown rampantly in the past few years with 2022 seeing a 728% increase in comparison to 2018

“Paying for the bill, waiting for the part, then waiting for the repair, and really having no idea when you’ll be getting your car back make this crime more impactful than just the price on the invoice,” added Lee. “This is not an issue that funding can fix, it’s not something we can install a new City program to fix. The only fix for this issue is curbing the criminal activity that is causing this crisis for Angelenos.”

The ordinance was approved by the City Council with an 8-4 vote.

###

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.