

Catalytic Converter Ordinance

Consideration of new Ordinance

May 17, 2022

RBMC Title 3, Chapter 15

Catalytic Converter Ordinance

- Increase in 2018-2019
- In 2020, RBPD took 108 catalytic converters theft reports.
- By the end of 2021 average of over 15 Catalytic Converters stolen per month.
- In 2022 through the end of April 66 catalytic converters have been reported stolen.



Catalytic Converter Thefts by Quarter



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- Catalytic converters are stolen for the precious metals they contain.
- Platinum - \$1,100 an ounce
- Palladium - \$2,400 an ounce
- Rhodium - \$18,000 an ounce
(peaked at \$26,000 an ounce in 2021)
- Increased replacement cost.

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- RBPD increased enforcement
- Etching events
- Public Awareness
- Directed Enforcement Details



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- Arrests have been made and found a location where they are sold.
- Unable to prosecute without an identifiable victim.
- Not illegal to possess multiple catalytic converters.
- Majority of catalytic converter cases have gone unsolved.

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- RBMC Title 3, Chapter 15 - Unlawful Possession of a Catalytic Converter
- Each and every violation of this section may in the discretion of the City Attorney be prosecuted as a misdemeanor and upon conviction be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than 12 months, or both.

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Recommended Action

- Introduce for first reading the Catalytic Converter Ordinance creating a section that makes it unlawful to possess any catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle unless the possessor has valid documentation or other proof to verify they are in lawful possession of the catalytic converter.