

Subject: Final Reading Regarding Catalytic Converters

Meeting Date: August 8,, 2022	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Pass the final reading of an ordinance regarding catalytic converters.	
Background	
<p>On July 25, 2022 the First reading and public hearing was held regarding this ordinance regulating the possession of catalytic converters and during the public hearing there was no one who spoke against the proposed ordinance.</p> <p>Tonight is the final reading and staff requests passage of this ordinance.</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>Catalytic converter theft is a nationwide issue that greatly impacts West St. Paul and below are statistics for West St. Paul:</p> <p>2017 - 12 2018 - 4 2019 - 0 2020 - 45 2021 - 177 2022 - 83 (increased in the last two weeks)</p> <p>We have worked with and will continue to work with Minnesota Department of Commerce in education about this problem along with proactive measures to mark catalytic converters in an attempt to deter theft.</p> <p>I have spoken with some of our state and federal elected officials to express the need for legislative action in order to restrict the sale of used /stolen catalytic converters which contain valuable metals. Legislative action unfortunately has stalled but we will continue to encourage our elected officials to act and pass a workable solution.</p> <p>Attached is the proposed ordinance. The ordinance specifies that a person or business cannot purchase or sell a used catalytic converter unless certain criteria are documented and maintained. It also restricts a person from possessing a catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle unless they can provide a legal receipt.</p>	

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This language is identical and/or similar to many other city ordinances that have been implemented across the State of Minnesota including St. Paul and Minneapolis recently.

This ordinance by no means will eliminate theft, but we may be able to hold some individuals accountable after the fact. By passing and implementing this ordinance it will also let our legislative representatives know that this is a serious issue affecting our community.

Attachments

Proposed ordinance language.

Previous Relevant Actions

Public Safety Committee Presentation April 6, 2022.

OCWS presentation on April 25, 2022.

First Reading and Public Hearing July 25, 2022.

Alternatives

Do not pass the ordinance.

Financial

Budgeted: Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund:

Department:

Account:

Amount: