

Subject: Ordinance Relating to Possession of Catalytic Converters

Meeting Date: April 25, 2022	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Brian Sturgeon	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Provide direction to staff on the feasibility to enact an ordinance relating to possession of catalytic converters.	
Background	
<p>Catalytic Converter theft is rampant throughout the United States and West St Paul is no different. Here are the statistics over the past five years in West St Paul:</p> <p>2017 - 12 2018 - 4 2019 - 0 2020 - 45 2021 - 177</p> <p>So far in 2022 we appear to be slightly behind 2021 thefts of catalytic converters.</p> <p>We are working with the Minnesota Department of Commerce to provide resources to our community in order to place identification stickers on catalytic converters as well as an education campaign to deter thefts of these vehicle parts that contain valuable metals. We are hopeful to have something in place come this summer. We have also joined Mendota Heights Police Department in applying for a grant to partner together in order to combat auto and auto parts thefts.</p> <p>The legislature at the State of Minnesota has attempted to pass bills to combat this type of criminal activity but those endeavors have stalled in committees. This year's proposal has been laid over, meaning it may make its way into a larger omnibus bill package.</p> <p>Several cities have passed their own ordinances to address the issue. Cities including Minneapolis, St Paul and Shakopee have pass ordinances banning the possession of catalytic converters that are not attached to a vehicle when the owner is unable to prove ownership.</p> <p>These ordinances are just a tool for our officers to hold thieves accountable and combat the problem. It could have an impact and it is a step we can take to do something to address this crime.</p>	

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Staff has attached some proposed language to incorporate into an ordinance for West St. Paul and the language is similar to other cities that have passes such regulations.

If Council is in favor of such an ordinance, staff will have a first reading and public hearing of the proposed ordinance at a future council meeting.

Attachments

Proposed language.

Previous Relevant Actions

Alternatives

Council has the option of not moving forth in this proposal.

Financial

Budgeted: Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund:

Department:

Account:

Amount: