

Subject: First Reading and Public Hearing Regarding Catalytic Converters

Meeting Date: July 25, 2022	
Submitted/Presented by/Department: Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input checked="" 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	
After discussion and holding a public hearing, approve the first reading on an ordinance regulating the possession, sale and purchase of catalytic converters within the City of West St. Paul.	
Background	
Catalytic converter theft is a nationwide issue that greatly impacts West St. Paul.	
Below are recent statistics regarding the theft of catalytic converters in West St Paul:	
2017 - 12 2018 - 4 2019 - 0 2020 - 45 2021 - 177 2022 - 79	
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.	
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.	
On April 25, 2022 we presented this issue at an Open Council Work Session and presented the wording for a city ordinance to restrict the possession, sale and purchase of catalytic converters. At that time staff was directed to move forward to present a formal ordinance to council at a later date.	
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.	

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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

Presentation made at the OCWS on April 25, 2022.

Alternatives

Do not pass the ordinance or make modifications.

Financial

Budgeted: Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund:

Department:

Account:

Amount: