



Legislation Text

File #: Ord 21-66, **Version:** 1

Amending Chapter 280 of the Legislative Code related to catalytic converters.

SECTION 1

WHEREAS, thefts of catalytic converters have been rising dramatically in the city of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, this crime targets unsuspecting victims who often park their vehicle in an open and accessible place to include the street, alleyway, commercial and/or private lot; and

WHEREAS, catalytic converters are targeted for theft because they are on the exterior of cars and accessible and because they contain some high value metals that can be sold for scrap; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of replacement of a catalytic converter ranges between hundreds to thousands of dollars per vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the cost of this crime not only weighs heavily upon the victims but also upon the city itself; and

WHEREAS, the costs to the City include the resources that must be directed to try and combat this problem from both the Department of Safety and Inspection and the Saint Paul Police Department; and

WHEREAS, catalytic converter theft cases are challenging for investigators because catalytic converters are quickly and easily removeable from vehicles making it difficult to apprehend the person committing the crime and Federal law does not require auto manufacturers to mark catalytic converters with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) making them less traceable to the vehicle of origin; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the Minnesota legislature established a catalytic converter theft prevention pilot program that provides funding for law enforcement agencies to offer vehicle owners the opportunity to have their catalytic converters permanently marked with identifiers; however, there is no evidence to suggest that this pilot program has deterred catalytic converter theft in the City of Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul wishes to restrict this criminal behavior by prohibiting the possession of a catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle unless the individual provides verification of legal receipt or proof of compliance with the recording requirements of Minnesota Statute 325E.21, Subd. 1(b):

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Saint Paul does hereby ordain:

SECTION 2

Section 280.11 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 280.11 - Sale of Catalytic Converters

No person or business may sell a used catalytic converter that is not attached to a vehicle. This section does not apply to a bona fide Automobile Repair Garage; or used auto parts dealer; whose license permits the installation, replacement, maintenance, or removal of catalytic converters.

The purchase of any catalytic converter must meet the recording requirements laid out in Minnesota Statute Section 325E.21, Subd. 1(b).

SECTION 3

Section 280.13 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code is hereby added to read as follows:

Section 280.13 - Possession of Catalytic Converters

No person shall be in possession of a catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle unless the

individual can provide verification of legal receipt of the catalytic converter or proof of compliance with the recording requirements laid out in Minnesota Statute Section 325E.21, Subd. 1(b).

SECTION 4

This Ordinance shall take force and be in effect thirty (30) days following passage, approval, and publication.