



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
DATE: September 19, 2023
SUBJECT: Discussion to Consider an Ordinance Prohibiting the Unlawful Possession of a Catalytic Converter

Description Review proposed ordinance and provide direction to staff.

Background and Analysis:

The City of Beaumont is considering an ordinance to prohibit the unlawful possession of catalytic converters. This ordinance is being proposed in response to the recent increase in catalytic converter thefts in the City.

A catalytic converter is an emissions control device that converts harmful pollutants in exhaust gas into less harmful pollutants. Catalytic converters are made of precious metals, such as platinum, palladium, and rhodium, which are valuable and can be easily stolen.

Catalytic converter thefts have been on the rise nationwide, and California has the dubious honor of leading the country in the number of converters stolen.

The proposed ordinance would make it unlawful for any person to possess a catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle. The ordinance would also require any person who is in possession of a catalytic converter to provide immediate proof of lawful possession to law enforcement upon request. Such proof may include a bill of sale from the original owner with photographs, documentation from an auto-body shop proving the owner relinquished the catalytic converter to the auto-body shop, or other manner of proof as defined in the ordinance.

The ordinance would be enforced by the Police Department. Violators of the ordinance would be guilty of a misdemeanor and could be punished by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to six months, or both.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no negative impact to the general fund. The cost to prepare this staff report is estimated at \$500.00.

Recommended Action:

Discuss and provide direction to staff to advertise a notice of public hearing at the next available City Council meeting.

Attachments:

- A. Proposed Ordinance