

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, catalytic converter theft has been on the rise; while California residents make up about 12% of the population in the United States, it accounts for about 37% of the nation's catalytic converter theft; and according to CalMatters, 1,600 catalytic converters are stolen every month in California and there has been a vast increase during the last three years; and The National Insurance Crime Bureau estimated catalytic converter theft has skyrocketed by 1,215% between 2019 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, often in the middle of the night, this sort of theft can take mere minutes as criminals cut under an engine before moving to the next target; and while these stolen parts can be sold for a few hundred dollars, it can cost the victims thousands of dollars; and while hard working Angelenos continue to make car and insurance payments, they often have to wait months for their catalytic converters to be replaced due to a nation-wide parts shortage; and

WHEREAS, this increase in thefts correlated with the rising black market prices of the precious metals found in catalytic converters; the New York Times confirmed that the price of an ounce of palladium jumped from \$500 in 2016 to between \$2,000-2,500 in 2021; and Rhodium jumped 3,000% from \$640 an ounce to over \$21,900- 12 times the price of gold; and

WHEREAS, while many local governments and state legislatures have advanced legislation to help protect car owners, the US Department of Justice has also become more tenacious in helping take down these criminal enterprises; in November 2022, the DOJ announced a take down of two dozen alleged criminals in five states who ran a nationwide catalytic converter theft ring, and

WHEREAS, more must be done at all levels of government to stop the theft and resale of catalytic converters; and

WHEREAS, S.5024, the Preventing Auto Recycling Thefts (PART) Act, was introduced in the United States Senate in 2022, to address the problem of catalytic converter theft by:

- Requiring new vehicles to have a Vehicle Identification number (VIN) stamped onto the converter to allow law enforcement officers to link stolen parts to the vehicle from which they originate;
- Creating a grant program through which entities can stamp VIN numbers onto catalytic converters of existing vehicles;
- Improving record keeping standards for purchasers of used catalytic converters; and
- Establishing enforceability of laws around catalytic converter theft by codifying these crimes as a criminal offense;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation similar to S. 2024, the Preventing Auto Recycling Thefts (PART) Act.

PRESENTED BY

BOB BLUMENFELD

Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY

Monica Rodriguez

ORIGINAL

PK
FEB 15 2023