



**PROPOSAL TO ADD RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE  
CHAPTER 9.29 – UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF  
CATALYTIC CONVERTERS**

**Riverside Police Department**

Safety, Wellness and Youth Committee  
September 18, 2024

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**BACKGROUND**

- Catalytic converter theft has increased significantly across the nation.
- Catalytic converter theft is popular because:
  - Value of precious metals contained in it
  - The ease of removing the catalytic converter from a vehicle
  - The ease of selling the item to scrap metal dealers for cash
- No serial numbers required for catalytic converters on vehicles sold prior to January 1, 2024
- Enforcement action may not be taken because Officer cannot prove item was stolen

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## NEED FOR MUNICIPAL CODE

- Current state law allows an individual to possess less than 9 catalytic converters without requiring proof of ownership
- If an officer makes contact with an individual possessing less than 9 catalytic converters but cannot identify a specific victim, then the officer may have to release the individual along with the catalytic converter(s)
- Proposed Ordinance will provide an additional tool to protect the public, deter criminal activity, and promote a more productive use of law enforcement resources



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## NEED FOR MUNICIPAL CODE

- Proposed ordinance will:
  - Establish a zero-tolerance policy for catalytic converter theft
  - Establish sanctions for possessing stolen catalytic converters
  - Prevent offenders from profiting from the sale of catalytic converters
  - Prevent recycling centers from purchasing unlawfully obtained catalytic converters
  - Provide indirect justice to the victims of catalytic converter theft
  - Minimize the fiscal and personnel impact in deterring and investigating catalytic converter thefts



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## RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE

- Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 9.29 – Unlawful Possession of Catalytic Converters
  - Unlawful for any person to possess any catalytic converter which is not properly installed in a vehicle unless the person has proof verifying they are in lawful possession
  - Unlawful for any person to knowingly falsify or cause to be falsified any information in any documentation or other proof intended to show valid proof of ownership

**See Exhibit A (Full Code)**



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## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



**Strategic Priority 2**  
**Community Well-Being**  
Goal 2.4



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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Safety, Wellness & Youth Committee recommend that the City Council approve the addition of Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 9.29 prohibiting the unlawful possession of catalytic converters in the City of Riverside.

