

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, SB 55 (Umberg) has been introduced in the California Senate to address the problem of catalytic converter theft by prohibiting the sale of new or used vehicles unless the vehicle identification number (VIN) has been engraved or etched onto the converter;

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 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 55 (Umberg), which would prohibit the sale of vehicles without an etched or engraved vehicle identification number on the catalytic converter.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL

PK

FEB 15 2023