

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

The Calgary Police Service has been educating their officers and Calgarians regarding the ongoing issue of catalytic converter thefts. Officers lay appropriate charges and conditions in relation to theft, possession, or trafficking of stolen property.

Etching as a Service

The etching of the Vehicle Identification Number onto its catalytic converter is an effective tracing method and satisfies criminal code charges. The etching initiative was designed for businesses working in conjunction with law enforcement. The Kal-Tire business was interested in participating and completed 1,500 etchings in the first two months. They are now exploring launching the program nationally. This result has now garnered interprovincial interest from British Columbia to Ontario as well as encouragement to re-evaluate the status of their own legislation to reflect Calgary/Alberta's initiative. The Calgary Police Service will be approaching other businesses, such as mechanic shops, to offer the etching service.

Ongoing work with businesses

Calgary Police Service has employed a phased approach to work with businesses in Calgary.

Phase 1: Coordinate, communicate, and foster a relationship with recyclers and salvage yards to report suspicious material. Educate recyclers on the Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act and requirements for the Salvage Yard licence category in the Business Licence Bylaw.

Phase 1 resulted in some recyclers charged for non-compliance and several individuals and businesses charged with theft, possession and/or trafficking stolen property.

Phase 2: Extend the education to scrap metal dealers (salvage collectors).

Phase 3: Execute ongoing monitoring for compliance and continue to foster communication between the recyclers, dealers, and enforcement.

Advocacy with provincial and federal agencies

Provincial

The Calgary Police Service has been advising throughout Alberta on relevant charges pertaining to the provincial act and encouraging further consistent action for total provincial compliance. The Calgary Police Service is part of three provincial working groups: AB Working for Catalytic Converters, Provincial Electrical and Physical Securities (Critical Infrastructure) Working Group, and Lower Mainland BC Working Group of Catalytic Converters. All are advocates to change their respective provincial legislation and moving forward to a national dialogue for Vehicle Identification Number etching on catalytic converters from the manufacturers.

Federal

The Criminal Intelligence Service of Alberta (CISA) has been creating Canada-wide dialogue regarding this trend. Through Calgary Police Service efforts, CISA has created a "best practices" information which is now distributed throughout the province.

Previous Council Direction

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
2022 December 14	EC2022-1373	Notice of Motion - Unattached Catalytic Converters NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL that Council direct Administration to return no later than Q2 2023 to: 1. Bring forward amendments to the Business License Bylaw and other regulations as appropriate, to regulate and person or business in possession of a catalytic converter, including establishing a fine amount that is an effective deterrent and is proportionate to the severity of the problem of a stolen catalytic converter. 2. Bring forward any other strategies or programs to reduce the theft of catalytic converters.