

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.1  
(ID # 22253)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

FROM : SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES and SUPERVISOR YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ:  
Directing Executive Office to Initiate Catalytic Converter Unlawful Possession Ordinance. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

Directs the Executive Office to work with the Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office to initiate and draft an ordinance regarding the unlawful possession of a catalytic converter.

ACTION: Policy

  
Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Chair

6/8/2023

  
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

6/8/2023

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried,  
IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Washington, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: Spiegel, Perez  
Date: June 13, 2023  
xc: BOS-Dist. 1, BOS-Dist. 5, E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

Catalytic converter theft has been one of the fastest growing crimes in the Country, with State Farm Insurance reporting a 400% increase nationwide since 2019. Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise because of the increasing value of the precious metals contained within and the ease with which criminals can remove the devices from the vehicles of unsuspecting residents. Catalytic converters can be sold for as much as \$1,200 each. Currently, law enforcement cannot seize a catalytic converter found to be removed from a vehicle and in someone's possession unless a victim can be identified. Unfortunately, locating the victim without identifying information on the catalytic converter is often impossible. Victims of catalytic converter thefts can pay thousands of dollars to replace them, and repairs can take months to occur, due to various supply chain issues.

While there have been legislative attempts in Sacramento to crack down on catalytic converter thefts, local agencies in California have begun to pass their own ordinances to assist law enforcement in holding these thieves accountable for their crimes. Some of those agencies include the County of San Bernardino, and the Cities of Los Angeles, Upland, and Eastvale.

Passage of this item would direct the Executive Office to work with the Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office to draft and initiate an ordinance that would require anyone who is not a licensed recycler and who is found to be in possession of a catalytic converter to provide proof of ownership to law enforcement. Utilizing the language from other jurisdictions (such as the attached ordinance from San Bernardino County) should accelerate this process.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

Catalytic converter theft is very costly to victims of this crime, both in dollars and in the time and inconvenience of repairs, and have affected individuals, businesses, and government agencies. Passage of a local ordinance could help hold thieves accountable and discourage theft in unincorporated areas of Riverside County.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment: Example of Ordinance from San Bernardino County

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**ORDINANCE NO. 4443**

**An ordinance of San Bernardino County, State of California, to add Chapter 16 to Division 7 of Title 2 of the San Bernardino County Code, relating to unlawful possession of a catalytic converter.**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County finds that:

(a) The theft of catalytic converters has been an increasing problem in San Bernardino County in recent years.

(b) Catalytic converters contain expensive precious metals including platinum, palladium, and rhodium, which, as of the drafting of the ordinance, costs from \$1,000 (platinum), \$2,000 (palladium) and over \$14,000 (rhodium) per ounce.

(c) In San Bernardino County, there were 556 reports of catalytic converter thefts in 2020 and as of December 2021, the number increased 120 percent to 1,223 reports by victims.

(d) The average cost of replacing a stolen catalytic converter and repairing the damage to the vehicle may cost the victim between \$1,000 to \$3,000, or more.

(e) Individuals in possession of stolen catalytic converters often recycle them for substantial profit while victims of these thefts suffer the consequences of paying thousands of dollars in repairs, the inconvenience of repairing their vehicles, and feeling unsafe in the community.

(f) Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise because individuals are incentivized to commit catalytic converter thefts for multiple reasons including, but not limited to: (1) the ease and undetectable nature of committing the thefts in a matter of seconds using common tools such as a reciprocating saw, (2) the ability to recycle catalytic converters at scrap metal yards for high dollar returns, and (3) the challenges

1 with prosecuting criminals for catalytic converter theft where a victim cannot be identified.

2 (g) Finding the victim of these crimes is extremely difficult due to the manner in  
3 which the catalytic converter thefts occur and lack of identifying markers on catalytic  
4 converters to link a stolen catalytic converter to the victim.

5 (h) The inability to identify the victims of catalytic converter thefts can inhibit the  
6 ability to successfully prosecute individuals for the thefts.

7 (i) There is currently no state or federal legislation applicable within San  
8 Bernardino County requiring individuals to provide proof to law enforcement showing how  
9 they obtained detached catalytic converters, thus limiting law enforcement's ability to  
10 protect the public by deterring catalytic converter thefts.

11 (j) This Ordinance is necessary to provide the San Bernardino County Sheriff's  
12 Department a means to protect the public, deter this criminal activity and promote a more  
13 productive use of San Bernardino County resources.

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15 SECTION 2. Chapter 16 is added to Division 7 of Title 2 of the San Bernardino  
16 County Code, to read:

17 **Chapter 16. UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A CATALYTIC CONVERTER**

18 **27.1601 Purpose and Intent**

19 **27.1602 Unlawful Possession of a Catalytic Converter**

20 **27.1603 Valid Proof of Ownership**

21 **27.1604 Violations and Enforcement**

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23 **27.1601 Purpose and Intent**

24 Catalytic converter theft is an increasing problem within San Bernardino County  
25 and causes significant financial damage to the victims. Due to the lack of federal or state  
26 legislation that requires showing proof of ownership of a catalytic converter to law  
27 enforcement, criminal enforcement remedies are limited. The purpose and intent of this  
28 Chapter is to provide San Bernardino County with reasonable means to address the

1 impact on the community and the victims posed by increasing catalytic converter thefts.

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3 **27.1602 Unlawful Possession of a Catalytic Converter**

4 (a) It is unlawful for any person, other than a Core Recycler as defined in  
5 California Business and Professions Code section 21610, to possess any catalytic  
6 converter that is not attached to a vehicle unless the person has a valid proof of ownership  
7 of the catalytic converter.

8 (b) This section does not apply to a detached catalytic converter that has been  
9 tested, certified, and labeled or otherwise approved for reuse, and is being bought or sold  
10 for purposes of reuse in accordance with the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et  
11 seq.) and regulations under the Clean Air Act, as they may be amended from time to time.

12 (c) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly falsify or cause to be falsified any  
13 information in a record intended to show valid proof of ownership.

14  
15 **27.1603 Valid Proof of Ownership**

16 For purposes of this Chapter, valid proof of ownership means:

17 (a) A document containing all of the following information:

18 (i) The license plate number and vehicle identification number of the car  
19 from which the catalytic converter was removed.

20 (ii) The name, address, and telephone number of the owner of the  
21 vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed.

22 (iii) The signature of the vehicle owner authorizing removal of the  
23 catalytic converter.

24 (iv) The name, address, and telephone number of the current owner of  
25 the catalytic converter.

26 (b) In the event the catalytic converter is in the possession of the current owner  
27 of the vehicle from which it was removed, valid proof of ownership means:

28 (i) Ownership documentation for the vehicle;

- (ii) A valid receipt for a replacement catalytic converter; and
- (iii) Proof of installation of the replacement catalytic converter.

**27.1604 Violations and Enforcement**

Each violation of this section constitutes a separate violation, including, but not limited to, possessing multiple catalytic converter(s) during a single contact by law enforcement, and is subject to all remedies and enforcement measures authorized by Chapter 2 of Division 1 of Title 1 of the San Bernardino County Code. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding six months, or both a fine and jail sentence.

SECTION 3. The Board of Supervisors declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each section, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of it irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases or portions of it be declared invalid or unconstitutional. If for any reason any portion of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, then all other provisions of it shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of adoption.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CURT HAGMAN, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED THAT A COPY  
OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED  
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

LYNNA MONELL, Clerk of the  
Board of Supervisors

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
2 ) ss.  
3 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY )

4 I, LYNNA MONELL, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County,  
5 State of California, hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of  
6 said County and State, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2022, at which meeting were  
7 present Supervisors: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Janice Rutherford, Dawn Rowe, Curt  
8 Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr., and the Clerk, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted  
9 by the following vote, to wit:

10 AYES: SUPERVISORS: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Janice Rutherford,  
11 Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr.

12 NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

13 ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal  
15 of the Board of Supervisors this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2022.

16 LYNNA MONELL, Clerk of the  
17 Board of Supervisors of  
18 San Bernardino County,  
19 State of California

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Deputy

22 Approved as to Form:

23 TOM BUNTON  
24 County Counsel

25 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Jolena E. Grider  
27 Deputy County Counsel

28 Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Daryl Terrell

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 6-13-23 Agenda # 3.1

### PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

Support      \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose      \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

**Note:** If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Support      \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose      \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: \_\_\_\_\_



# BOARD RULES

## **Requests to Address Board on “Agenda” Items:**

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

## **Requests to Address Board on items that are “ NOT” on the Agenda/Public Comment:**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, a member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning “Oral Communications” segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES. Donated time is not permitted during Public Comment.

## **Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:**

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board’s Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk’s Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead “Elmo” projector at the Board meeting, please ensure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

## **Individual Speaker Limits:**

**Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.** Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the “green” podium light will light. The “yellow” light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the “yellow” light will begin to flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the “red” light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. ***Note: If you intend to give your time to a “Group/Organized Presentation”, please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.***

## **Group/Organized Presentations:**

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman’s discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed “Request to Speak” form, and clearly indicated at the bottom of the form.

## **Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:**

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman, may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.



# Riverside County Board of Supervisors Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Ray Buehler

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda # 3, 1

### PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

\_\_\_\_\_ Support      \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose      \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

**Note:** If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Support      \_\_\_\_\_ Oppose      \_\_\_\_\_ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: \_\_\_\_\_

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