



## CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, California 92677  
Phone: (949) 362-4300 Fax: (949) 362-4352

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Kelly Jennings  
Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Oddo  
Council Member Ray Gennawey  
Council Member Gene Johns  
Council Member Stephanie Winstead

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Umberg  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 6530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: SUPPORT SB 55: VEHICLES: CATALYTIC CONVERTERS**

Dear Senator Umberg,

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am pleased to offer our support for Senate Bill 55 related to Catalytic Converters Theft.

Catalytic converter theft is on the rise locally and across the country. According to data provided by the Personal Insurance Federation of California, insurance claims for catalytic converter thefts in California increased from a monthly average of 183 in 2020 to 477 claims in January 2022. Claims rose by 308% from 2019 to 2020 and 100% from 2020 to 2021. California had the highest number of claims in the United States, accounting for 28% of all theft claims in the country.

Thieves target catalytic converters because they contain precious metals that can be illicitly sold for several hundred dollars per piece. This crime can have a devastating financial impact on victims as the cost to replace a catalytic converter can be between \$1,000 and \$3,500. The increase in theft, combined with the supply chain issue, has resulted in a shortage of replacement catalytic converters.

By requiring auto dealers to apply a vehicle identification number (VIN) to the catalytic converter of each vehicle listed for sale, law enforcement will be able to determine the rightful owner of a converter, prove cases, and return stolen property to the victim. The additional requirement in Senate Bill 55 that requires core recyclers of catalytic converters to maintain descriptive records and present that information to law enforcement upon request will serve as an additional barrier to the illicit trade of this stolen property.

Senate Bill 55 recognizes the deficiencies in current law and provides the right solutions for moving forward.

Sincerely

Kelly Jennings  
Mayor

Cc: Assembly Committee on Public Safety