



CITY OF DORAL Office of the City Manager Letter to Council

LTC No.: 034-2022

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: 
Hernan M. Organvidez, City Manager

Date: October 5, 2022

Subject: **Catalytic Converter Thefts**

This letter to Council is to inform the Mayor and City Council of the Doral Police Department's (DPD) proactive approach and efforts in reference to the recent uprise of catalytic converter thefts within the City of Doral.

Across the nation, law enforcement agencies are reporting an increase in the theft of catalytic converters. Catalytic converters are a part of a vehicle's exhaust system that converts bad exhaust to good exhaust, however it is what is inside that thieves want. This specific vehicle part is being stolen because it contains numerous rare earth precious metals: platinum, palladium, and rhodium. The DPD has taken a pro-active approach to prevent and deter the theft of catalytic converters.

The DPD General Investigations Unit along with the Real-Time Operations Center (RTOC) have identified multiple groups that are responsible for these kinds of thefts. The RTOC has created and distributed multiple "Be on the Look-out" B.O.L.O. flyers depicting subjects and their vehicles. DPD Patrol Officers have made several in-progress arrests related to the theft of catalytic converters, as are highlighted below:

August 22, 2022- DPD officers conducted a traffic stop of a stolen vehicle occupied by two male subjects and discovered several catalytic converters that had been sawed off. An inventory search of the vehicle revealed several burglary tools.

Catalytic Converter Thefts

Page 2 of 2

September 8, 2022- While patrolling his assigned area, a DPD Officer observed a vehicle matching the description of a vehicle associated with previous catalytic converter thefts. The officer contacted the vehicle's driver and occupants and conducted his investigation which resulted in the arrest of all three subjects for Loitering and Prowling, Possession of Burglary Tools, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

September 8, 2022- While on patrol, DPD Officers observed a subject underneath a vehicle actively cutting out the vehicle's catalytic converter. The subject was immediately taken into custody along with three additional subjects that were waiting in a nearby getaway vehicle. All four subjects were arrested. Their criminal histories include six previous arrests for the theft of catalytic converters, possession of crystal methamphetamine and several active bench warrants for burglary and battery.

October 5, 2022- DPD Officers observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road with its flashers on. As officers attempted to approach the vehicle, the vehicle fled at a high rate of speed. Officers subsequently located a vehicle elevated with a jack and its catalytic converter partially cut.

As a result of these proactive area patrols and arrests, the Doral Police Department has made a significant impact within these criminal groups. In addition, information distributed by the RTOC and DPD investigators have assisted surrounding law enforcement agencies with their investigations.

The DPD is steadfast in meeting our goal of reducing crime and maintaining a safe community and assures the City Council of the Department's commitment to providing a safe environment for its residents, businesses, and visitors to the City of Doral.

HMO/RMU/YM

c. Raul M. Ubieta, Chief of Police