



A measure to deter theft of devices throughout City of Chicago and suburbs
Village Board bans sale of secondhand catalytic converters

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ELMWOOD PARK – Trustees have adopted an ordinance amending the Village code that would prohibit the sale of secondhand catalytic converters amid an increase in theft of the devices throughout the City of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. The measure is designed to make it more difficult to sell the parts on the black market.

"We're trying to help the City of Chicago which has seen an increase in demand for catalytic converters because of the value of their precious metals," said Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano. "This won't affect the average resident or honest businessman, but it will limit opportunity for those trying to do the wrong thing."

A catalytic converter is a vehicle emissions control device that converts toxic pollutants in the exhaust gas of motor vehicles into less harmful fumes. Because of the precious metals in the coating of the inner structure and because the converter is accessible on the outside of the vehicle, it has become targeted for theft. Chicago aldermen approved their own ordinance this past spring, with officials calling it a regional problem that local municipalities must work together to address.

The Elmwood Park ordinance outlines what are permissible ways for catalytic converters or their parts to be sold or transferred, such as to a properly licensed automobile dealer or repair shop. But, the new ordinance makes it unlawful for anyone to engage in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging any catalytic converter that is not attached to a motor vehicle or any portion of a catalytic converter that is reasonably identified as such.

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