



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SHENG THAO AND  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY BILL  
1740 (MURATSUCHI), WHICH WOULD ALLOW CORE RECYCLERS  
TO PURCHASE OR RECEIVE CATALYTIC CONVERTERS ONLY  
FROM COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES OR OWNERS OF THE VEHICLE  
TO WHICH THE CATALYTIC CONVERTER BELONGED, THEREFORE  
DISCOURAGING THE THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS**

**WHEREAS**, the State of California requires catalytic converters on most motor vehicles, including almost all motor vehicles operated by private community members; and

**WHEREAS**, semi-precious metals such as palladium are embedded in catalytic converters; and

**WHEREAS**, these semi-precious metals have a potent recycle value; and

**WHEREAS**, the recycle value of semi-precious metals such as palladium make catalytic converters a target for theft, especially on older model vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, catalytic converter theft can cost the vehicle owner thousands of dollars to replace the catalytic converter to be compliant with California state law; and

**WHEREAS**, because catalytic converters are frequently stolen from older model vehicles, the cost to replace the catalytic converter can frequently result in the vehicle being “totaled”; and

**WHEREAS**, catalytic converter theft causing an older vehicle to be “totaled” can place an enormous burden on the vehicle owner, as the “totaled” vehicle may have provided vital transportation to school, work, or other essential activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of catalytic converter thefts, already a nuisance, has greatly increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, California state law currently requires core recyclers, defined as a person or business that buys individual catalytic converters, transmissions, or other parts previously removed from a vehicle, to maintain a written record of specified information regarding the transaction,

including the type and quantity, amount paid for the catalytic converter, identification number, if any, and vehicle identification number for at least two years; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a crime in the State of California for a core recycler to not follow the rules mentioned above; and

**WHEREAS**, the above-mentioned law represents an effort by the State of California to track catalytic converter sales to deter catalytic converter thefts by encouraging core recyclers to ensure they are purchasing catalytic converters that have not been stolen; and

**WHEREAS**, despite current California state law, catalytic converter theft is still a nuisance; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to further combat catalytic converter theft, California State Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi has introduced Assembly Bill 1740, which would require core recycles to maintain a written record of the year, make, and model of the vehicle from which a catalytic converter they purchased was removed and prohibit a core recycler from entering into a transaction to purchase or receive a catalytic converter from any person that is not a commercial enterprise or owner of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1740 would further discourage core recyclers from purchasing stolen catalytic converters by ensuring they purchase these converts from either a commercial enterprise or the vehicles owner; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby recognizes that AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) may deter further catalytic converter theft; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses AB 1740 (Muratsuchi) and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of  
Oakland, California