

CATALYTIC CONVERTER ORDINANCE

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PALM DESERT



AGENDA

- Catalytic Converters
- Ordinance Overview
- Staff Recommendation



PURPOSE OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

To reduce air pollution, modern vehicles are equipped with a device called a catalytic converter that reduces emissions of three harmful compounds found in car exhaust:

1. Carbon monoxide (a poisonous gas)
2. Nitrogen oxides (a cause of smog and acid rain)
3. Hydrocarbons (a cause of smog)

These are converted into less harmful compounds before leaving the car's exhaust system. This is accomplished using a catalyst, which gives the device its name.



VALUE

- Catalytic converters have economic value as they contain precious metals. This is the main reason why they are sold as the most expensive scrap. Because it contains **rhodium**, **palladium**, and **platinum**, which are among the most precious metals.

➕ Precious Metals Market

🕒 (April 1st, 2024, 8:00 am)

Metal/Material

Current Price

[Platinum Market Price](#)

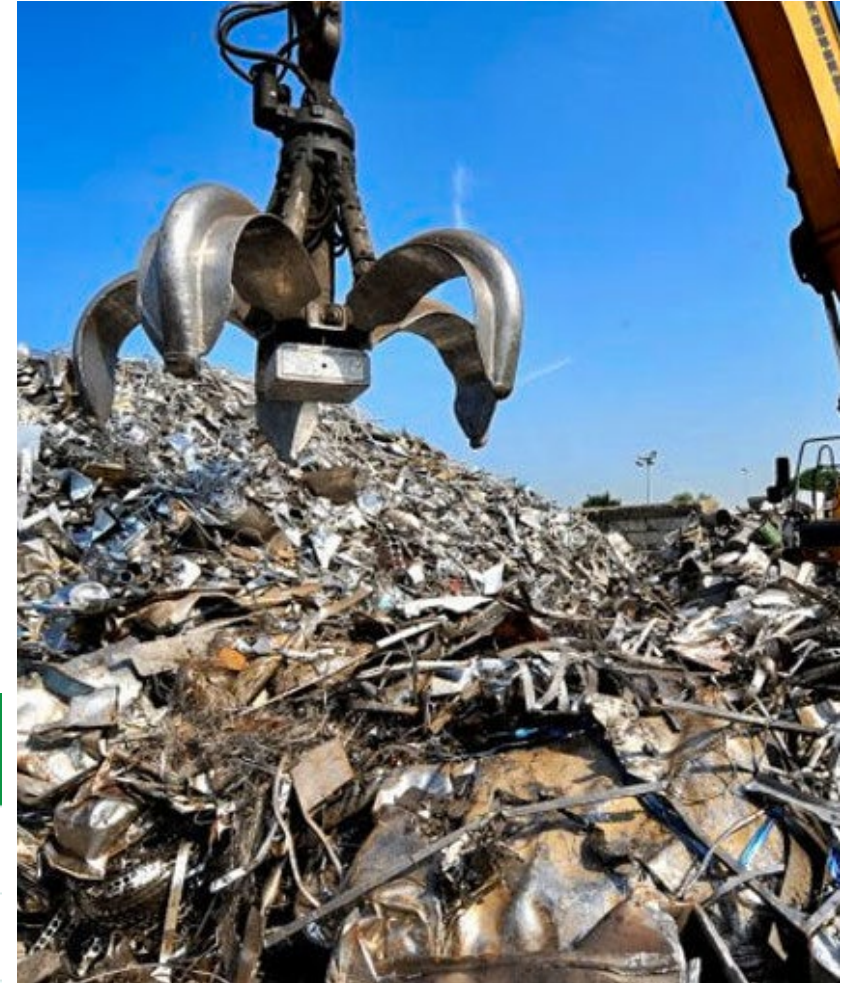
\$900/oz

[Rhodium Market Price](#)

\$4450/oz

[Palladium Market Price](#)

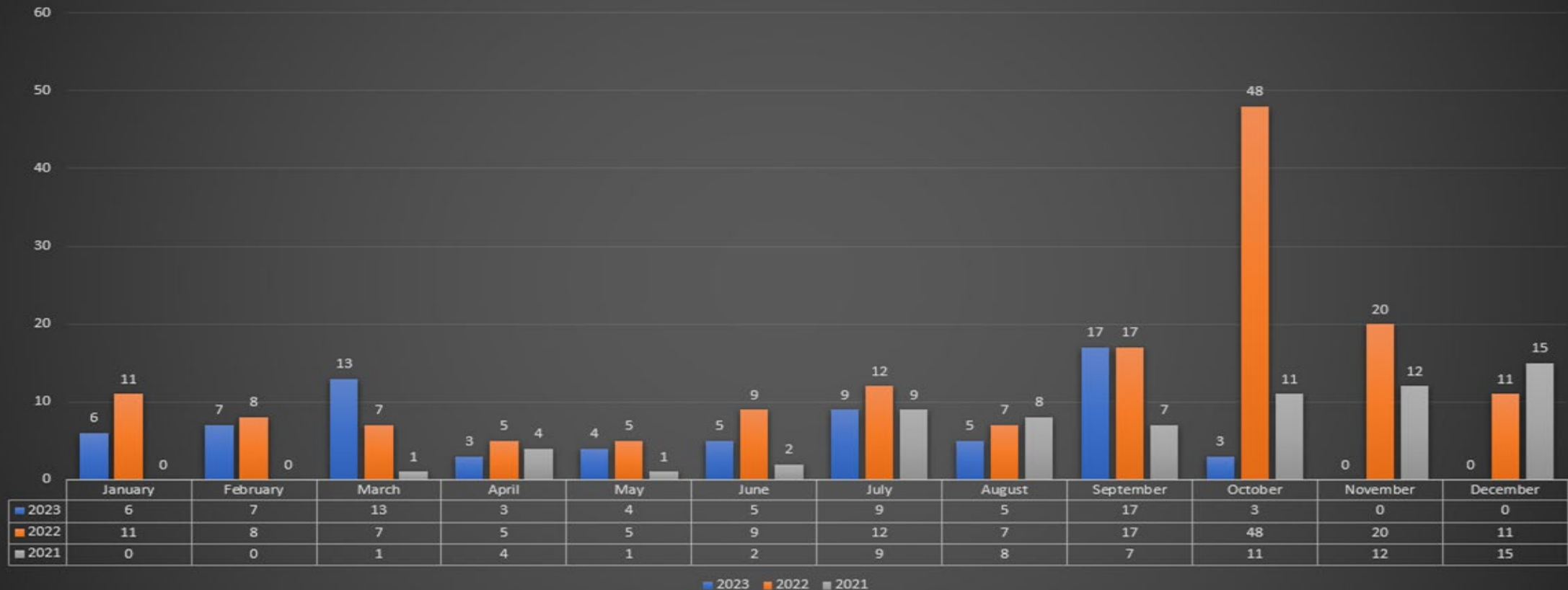
\$1007/oz



STATS

- In 2023, the City of Palm Desert experienced an average of 6 thefts per month, which is a decrease from the 13 thefts per month experienced in 2022

Catalytic Converter Theft - Palm Desert - 3 Year Comparison




CATALYTIC CONVERTOR THEFTS

- Why are thefts on the rise?
- (1) the ease and undetectable nature of committing such thefts, potentially in a matter of seconds and through the use of common tools;
- (2) the ability to recycle catalytic converters at scrap metal yards for high dollar returns ranging from \$200 to \$1,200 per catalytic converter; and
- (3) loopholes in legislation protecting criminals from prosecution unless a victim can be identified. Currently no law to define and punish catalytic converter thefts absent an identifiable victim.

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CATALYTIC CONVERTERS REVIEW

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- A series of five orange, curved, brush-stroke-like lines arranged in an arc in the upper right corner of the slide.
- The City Council had previously requested for a thorough review and analysis of catalytic converters thefts.
 - The Public Safety Committee at the April 9, 2024 meeting voted to move forward with a recommendation to the City Council.
 - The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has full support of such ordinance.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Regulating possession of detached catalytic converters within the jurisdiction will:

- (1) achieve deterrence by establishing zero-tolerance for catalytic converter thefts
- (2) establish sanctions for possessing stolen catalytic converters
- (3) prevent criminals from profiting from the sale and recycling of stolen catalytic converters
- (4) providing indirect justice to the victims of catalytic converter theft cases that have gone or will go unsolved for the reasons discussed above
- (5) minimize the fiscal and personnel impact on the City of Palm Desert and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department by reducing the time invested in deterring and investigating catalytic converter thefts

THANK YOU

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