

# INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

## May 16, 2024



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**To:** City Council  
**From:** City Manager Department  
**Prepared by:** Kristen Nelson, Senior Management Analyst  
**Subject:** **Adoption of County Ordinance Number 987 Regarding Unlawful Possession of Catalytic Converters and Finds Action to be Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **INTRODUCES** Ordinance to be read by title only and further reading waived, amending Title 9 of the City of Indian Wells Municipal code, adding Chapter 9.07, adopting by reference Riverside County Ordinance No. 987; and

**FINDS** Action to be Exempt from CEQA guidelines section 15061.

### DISCUSSION:

The Board of Supervisors of Riverside County finds that the theft of catalytic converters has been an increasing problem in Riverside County in recent years. The external location of catalytic converters and the use of valuable precious metals, including rhodium, palladium and platinum, in catalytic converters makes these devices a target for thieves. Individuals in possession of stolen catalytic converters often recycle them for substantial profit, while victims of these thefts suffer the consequences of paying thousands of dollars in repairs, the inconvenience of repairing their vehicles, and feeling unsafe in the community.

Finding the victim of these crimes is extremely difficult due to the manner in which the catalytic converter thefts occur and lack of identifying markers on catalytic converters to link a stolen catalytic converter to the victim. The inability to identify the victims of catalytic converter thefts can inhibit the ability to successfully prosecute individuals for the thefts. This ordinance is necessary to provide the County a means to protect the public, deter this criminal activity and promote a more productive use of Riverside County resources. The ordinance makes it a misdemeanor to possess a catalytic converter without valid proof of ownership of the converter.

Catalytic converter theft is an increasing problem within Riverside County and causes significant financial damage to the victims. The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to curb the theft of catalytic converters throughout the County and to provide the County with reasonable means to address the impact on the community and the victims posed by increasing catalytic converter thefts.

Adoption of this Ordinance by reference will enable Riverside County the ability to enforce their Ordinance in the City of Indian Wells.

**City Council Strategic Goal:**

This action supports Council’s goal of monitoring various public safety initiatives for improved public safety.

**Committee Recommendations:**

The Public Safety Committee received a briefing from staff and Lt. Dave Wright at its special meeting held on Monday, April 29, 2024. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Public Safety Committee recommended the Council consider adopting this ordinance at its May 16<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**OPTIONS:**

The City Council may choose to:

1. Introduce and conduct the first reading of the proposed Ordinance adopting by reference Riverside County Ordinance No. 987, pursuant to California Government Code 50022.2, and schedule a public hearing to receive public input regarding adoption of proposed ordinance as outlined in this report and consider adoption of said ordinance; or
2. Not introduce, nor pursue, the adoption of the proposed Ordinance adopting by reference Riverside County Ordinance No. 987 as outlined in this report; or
3. Provide alternative direction.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

The action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") under the State CEQA Guidelines because there is no possibility that this ordinance or its implementation would have a significant negative effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3).)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the proposed Ordinance.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Ordinance
2. RivCo Ordinance No. 987