



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



Richard J. Worley
Police Commissioner

BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: The Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Erin C. Murphy, Esq., Director of Government Affairs, Baltimore Police Dept.

RE: House Bill 0871- Catalytic Converters- Record Keeping Requirements

DATE: February 28, 2024

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore Police Department supports House Bill 0871. This legislation requires records of junk dealers, scrap metal processors, and automotive dismantlers and recyclers to include certain information about the vehicle from which a catalytic converter, or part of a catalytic converter was obtained. This information includes the vehicle identification number, the registration plate number, and the make and model of the vehicle.

Catalytic converter theft is a continuing issue for Baltimore city residents and part of a national trend. Over 500 converters were stolen in 2022. The cost of replacing a catalytic converter can be several thousand dollars, not including labor. BPD has offered tips to prevent these thefts such as etching the vehicle's identification number and/or license plate number onto the converter and having the converter welded to the vehicle.

Requiring the dealers, processors, dismantlers and recyclers to record this information will aide law enforcement agencies in investigating catalytic converter thefts.

For these reasons, BPD respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 0871.