Minute No. 548
Report – Executive Policy Committee – June 15, 2022

Item No. 11 Response to Catalytic Converter Thefts and Resale of High Value Precious Metals

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service report back to Council within 180 days on a menu of options in response to the wave of catalytic converter thefts in Winnipeg, including but not limited too a catalytic converter task force to respond in a specialised way to the crisis.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service call on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to discuss a coordinated response among municipalities, provincial and federal governments to the resale of high value precious metals which are economical to transport long distances for processing.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication in support of the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 15, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the Council Motion of May 26, 2022 and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 26, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS catalytic converter thefts have been a growing problem in Winnipeg and in many Canadian municipalities;

WHEREAS anecdotal evidence suggests that these thefts are well organized and coordinated;

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has adopted new scrap metal regulations in recent years intended to curb the re-sale of metals from stolen property;

WHEREAS current market prices for precious metals contained in catalytic converters make them a highly lucrative target for theft, and economical to transport long distances to other jurisdictions for processing and re-sale;

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has had success in the past with specialised law enforcement responses to specific criminal phenomenon, such as the historic arson task force;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service report back to Council within 180 days on a menu of options in response to the wave of catalytic converter thefts in Winnipeg, including but not limited too a catalytic converter task force to respond in a specialised way to the crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service call on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to discuss a coordinated response among municipalities, provincial and federal governments to the resale of high value precious metals which are economical to transport long distances for processing.