

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 21-29.10 OF THE NASSAU COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE WITH RESPECT TO CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

WHEREAS, catalytic converters are exhaust emissions control devices that reduce harmful pollutants in exhaust gas from internal combustion engines; and

WHEREAS, catalytic converters are an essential and legally required component of most gas- and diesel-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS; these devices contain precious metals including platinum, palladium and rhodium, and are an attractive target for thieves that can easily sell these highly valued components to scrap metal dealers; and

WHEREAS, replacing stolen converters and repairing damages due to the theft can cost victims thousands of dollars; and

WHEREAS, as these catalytic converters are easily stolen by skilled thieves using common tools and are not marked, stamped or otherwise identifiable in a manner that would assist law enforcement to identify the vehicle from which the device was stolen from, the theft and sale of catalytic converters has skyrocketed as the price of precious metals have increased; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Local Law to require scrap metal dealers in Nassau County to better document information on the seller of a catalytic converter to assist law enforcement in its mission to deter the theft of these devices and prosecute offenders; NOW
THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. §21-29.10 of the Nassau County Administration Code shall be amended to include the following subsection:

5. Additional Requirements Regarding Purchase of Catalytic Converter.

- a) In addition to the requirements of this section, a person attempting to sell a catalytic converter to a Purchaser shall provide to the Purchaser the following information:
 - i. the year, make, model, and vehicle identification number for the vehicle from which the catalytic converter was removed;
 - ii. a copy of the certificate of title or other documentation indicating that the seller has an ownership interest in the vehicle described in subdivision (i), or where the seller is the owner of a garage or repair shop and the catalytic converter was removed in connection with a motor vehicle repair, the name and address of the vehicle's owner and copies of all related invoices.
- b) A Purchaser may not purchase a catalytic converter from a seller who does not comply with the requirements of subsection (a).
- c) A Purchaser may not purchase a catalytic converter unless such Purchaser determines that the catalytic converter is consistent with the manufacturer's specifications for a catalytic converter from the vehicle for which the seller provided information under subdivision (a)(i).

- d) A Purchaser shall keep an accurate electronic record of each purchase of a catalytic converter made in the course of the Purchaser's business. The record must be in English and include the information required pursuant to §21-29.10 of the Nassau County Administration Code.
- e) A Purchaser shall preserve each record required pursuant to this section until the fifth anniversary date the record was made. The records must be available for inspection not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the date of purchase.
- f) On request, a Purchaser shall permit representatives of the Nassau County Department of Consumer Affairs or the Nassau County Police Department to inspect all records required to be kept pursuant to this title.

§ 2. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined to its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

§ 3. SEQRA Determination. It is hereby determined, pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), 8 N.Y.E.C.L. Section 0101 et seq. and its

implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that the adoption of this local law is a “Type II” Action within the meaning of Section 617(c)(20) and (27) of 6 N.Y.C.R.R., and, accordingly is of a class of actions which do not have a significant effect on the environment, and no further review is required.

§ 4. Effective Date. This local law shall take effect immediately.