



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
Tacoma, Washington
cityoftacoma.org/police



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tacoma Police Department Partnering with Titus-Will Toyota & Simmons Automotive in CATCON ID

Tacoma, Wash. – In an effort to combat the high numbers of catalytic converter thefts that have occurred both locally and nationally, the Tacoma Police Department is partnering with Titus-Will Toyota and Simmons Automotive in Project CATCON ID.

The goal of this initiative is to etch each vehicle's catalytic converter with an identifying number, allowing the catalytic converter to be paired with the vehicle if stolen and recovered. Without this identifying number being applied, there is no way for law enforcement to know what vehicle a catalytic converter was stolen from, or even prove it was stolen, if it is located during an investigation.

Titus-Will Toyota, 3506 S. Sprague Ave., and Simmons Automotive, 5601 S. Proctor St., will provide this identification service for free during the Project CATCON ID initiative on November 18, 2022 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Appointments will not be taken; the service will be provided on a first come first served basis. The vehicle owner will be required to sign a waiver releasing the City of Tacoma, the automotive business, and their employees from liability.

The Tacoma Police Department will provide High Heat Resistant Paint to mark the engraving location and a window decal noting the vehicle is "Tagged & Protected" for each vehicle serviced.

Project CATCON ID is a Law Enforcement initiative supported by the National Insurance Criminal Bureau (NICB). The vision of Project CATCON ID is to influence a unilateral business practice of identifying catalytic converters to reduce and ultimately eliminate catalytic converter theft.

During Project CATCON ID, each vehicle's catalytic converter will be etched with a universal identifying alphanumeric number. NICB recommends the last eight characters of the vehicle's Vehicle Identification Number or VIN. This reduces the time and error in etching the catalytic converter and provides accuracy in pairing the converter to the vehicle if stolen and recovered. Ultimately, by adding an owner applied number, especially in mass, this will improve law enforcement efforts locally and nationally.

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