

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 06/02/2008
Reviewed By: *BP*

SUBJECT: Assembly Bill 844 – Junk Dealers and Recyclers: Nonferrous material resale regulations to reduce the theft of metal such as copper piping and catalytic converters

REPORT BY: Beth Pollard, City Administrator

COUNCILMEMBER JAVANDEL RECOMMENDATION

Support Assembly Bill 844.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to send the attached letter in support of Assembly bill 844.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Councilmember Javandel asked that the legislation be agendized for City Council endorsement.

As the value of copper, platinum, and other metals have increased, so have thefts of these metals from construction sites, motor vehicles, and other locations. Stolen items include copper tubing, brass grave markers and platinum-laced catalytic converters. A large portion of these thefts are reported to be linked to individuals who steal the metal to fund illegal activities, such as buying drugs.

Typically, the thefts occur at night, and the victims usually do not realize the theft has occurred until at least the next day. Even in situations where individuals are found with metal in their possession, without any report of a crime or a witness, arrests cannot be made.

The stolen metal is often sold to junk dealers and recyclers. The proposed legislation would require the dealers and recyclers to comply with record keeping and identifications procedures to help insure that they are not purchasing stolen scrap metal. Specifically, it would require identification of consumers who recycle scrap metals and a three-day delay in payment to consumers, as well as allow cities to go beyond state law when they feel the local public safety needs warrant a stronger ordinance to prevent these thefts.

Albany has experienced these thefts over the past few years; in fact, two catalytic converters have been reported stolen in the past month. The League of California Cities has encouraged cities to support the legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

Attachments

1. Draft letter of support
2. AB 844 as amended