



# 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

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## CRESTWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATION ETCH & CATCH

The Crestwood Police Department leads initiative to help stop catalytic converter theft in the region.

Crestwood, MO, May 11, 2022– The Crestwood Police Department is proud to announce the roll out of Operation Etch & Catch, a program designed to help stem the tide of increasing theft and the illegal trade of automotive catalytic converters. By partnering with volunteering local automotive repair businesses, the Crestwood Police Department has put in place an easy, no personal cost way for automobile owners to have identifying marks placed upon their vehicles' catalytic converters. The increasing price of scrap value for rare metals within catalytic converters has caused a significant increase in catalytic converter thefts.

*"Within the last year, we have seen a noted increase in catalytic convertor theft in our residential neighborhoods, as well as in our commercial corridor and industrial areas."* Said Chief Jonathan Williams of The Crestwood Police Department.

Etch & Catch partner businesses have agreed that any time an existing customer has a vehicle serviced that requires it to be placed on a lift, that at the customer's request, the partner business will apply by metal etching the vehicle's license plate number as well as a strip of bright heat resistant paint to the catalytic converter. By doing so, the catalytic converter now has been marked with an owner applied identification number that may be entered into the regional criminal database if it is stolen. All known scrap yards and metal recyclers in the area will be notified that if a catalytic converter is presented at their facility with such markings, or if it appears such markings have been forcibly removed, it is most likely stolen property.

Said Officer Dion Olson of The Crestwood Police Department, *"We are very happy to be able to partner with our local automotive businesses to curb the theft of catalytic converters from the hard working residents and business owners of Crestwood. I hope that other departments follow our lead, and start utilizing this program for their communities as well."*

A full and continually updated list of Etch & Catch partner businesses may be reviewed online at [www.Cityofcrestwood.org/etch](http://www.Cityofcrestwood.org/etch)

The Crestwood Police Department provides the highest quality police services through impeccable ethical and professional standards. We are honored to do our part to keep the City of Crestwood as one of the best cities in America.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Dion Olson at 314-729-4824 or email at [dolson@cityofcrestwood.org](mailto:dolson@cityofcrestwood.org).