

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

CATALYTIC CONVERTER & AUTO THEFT UPDATE



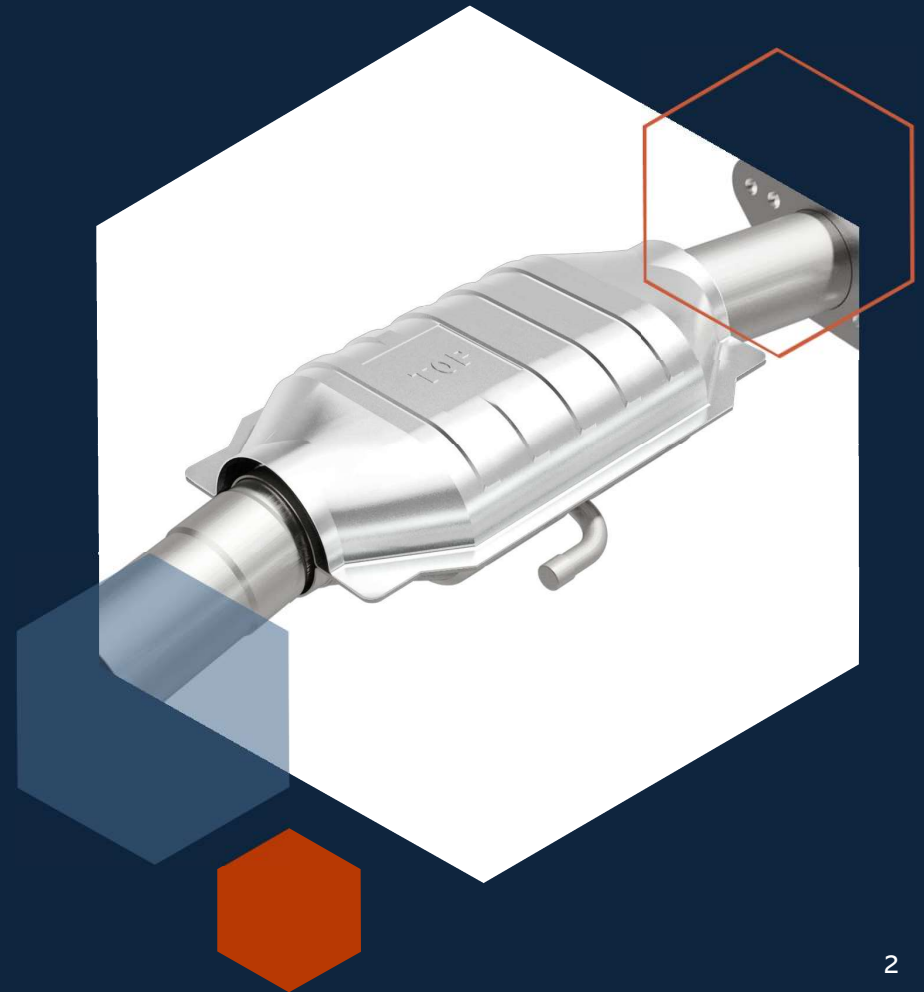
COMMANDER DANA HITZMAN
AUTO THEFT DIVISION

8.13.2024

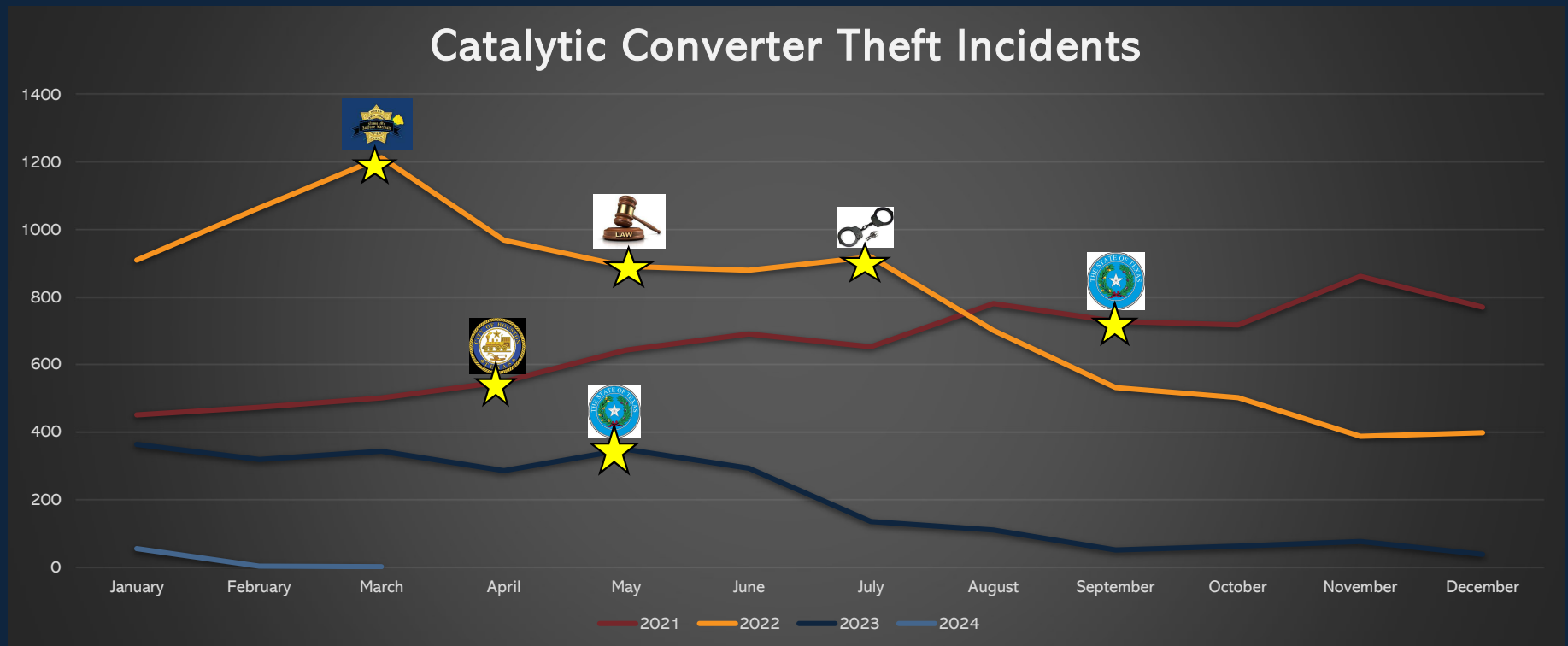
Catalytic Converter and Auto Theft Update

Commander
Dana Hitzman

Auto Theft
Division



HPD Catalytic Converter Incident Timeline

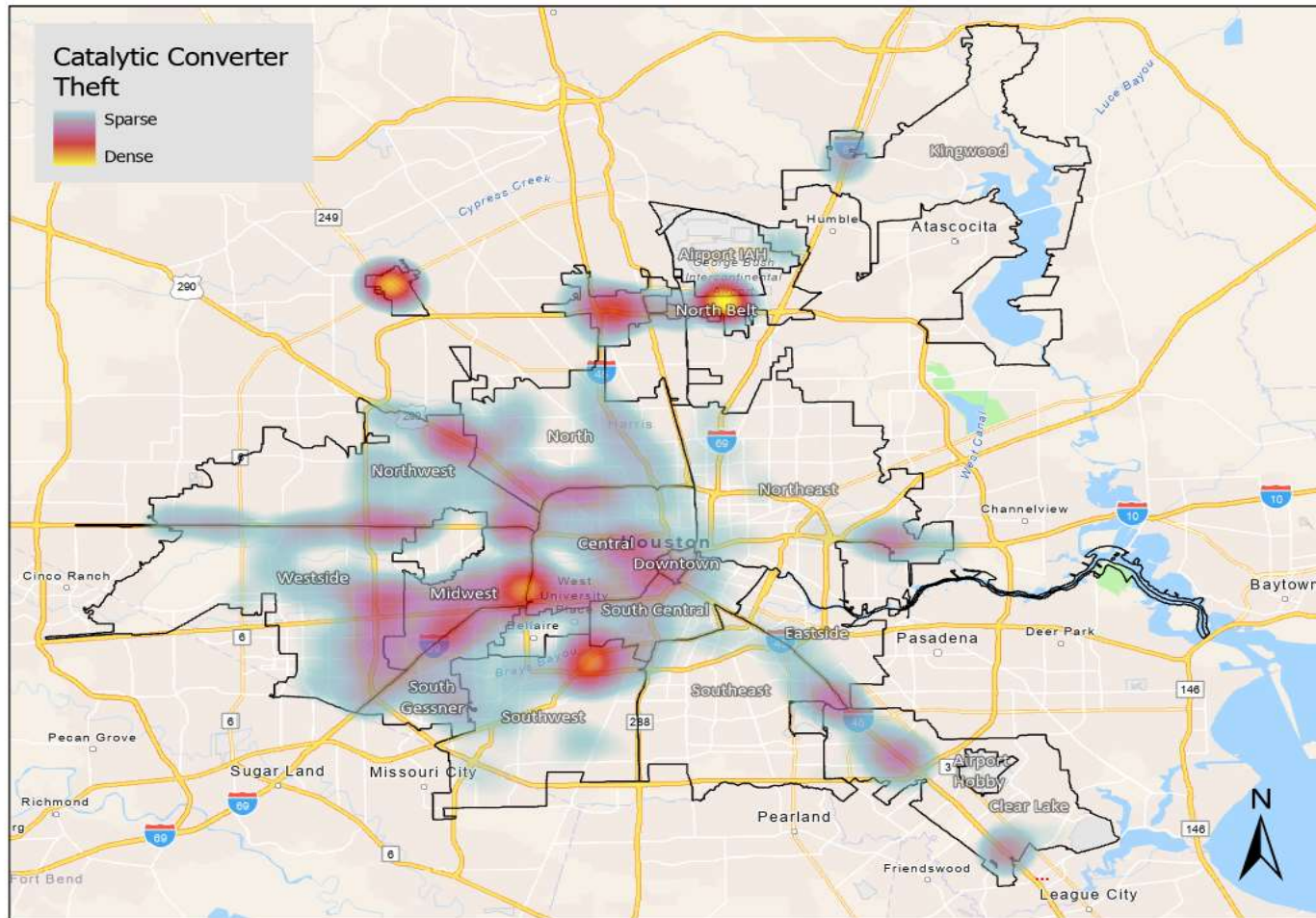


Senate Bill 224

- Cited as the Deputy Darren Almendarez Act
- Effective May 29, 2023
- Provides a new framework of offenses, penalties and enhancements
 - Criminal Mischief
 - Theft
 - Unauthorized Possession of Catalytic Converter
 - Enhancements
 - Previously convicted under this section
 - Engaged in conspiracy with respect to catalytic converter theft or criminal mischief
 - Possessed a firearm during the commission of the offense
- Provides funding for law enforcement via the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority



Catalytic Converter Theft Locations



P
r
o
b
l
e
m



Stolen Catalytic Converters





Stolen Catalytic Converters





Stolen Catalytic Converters

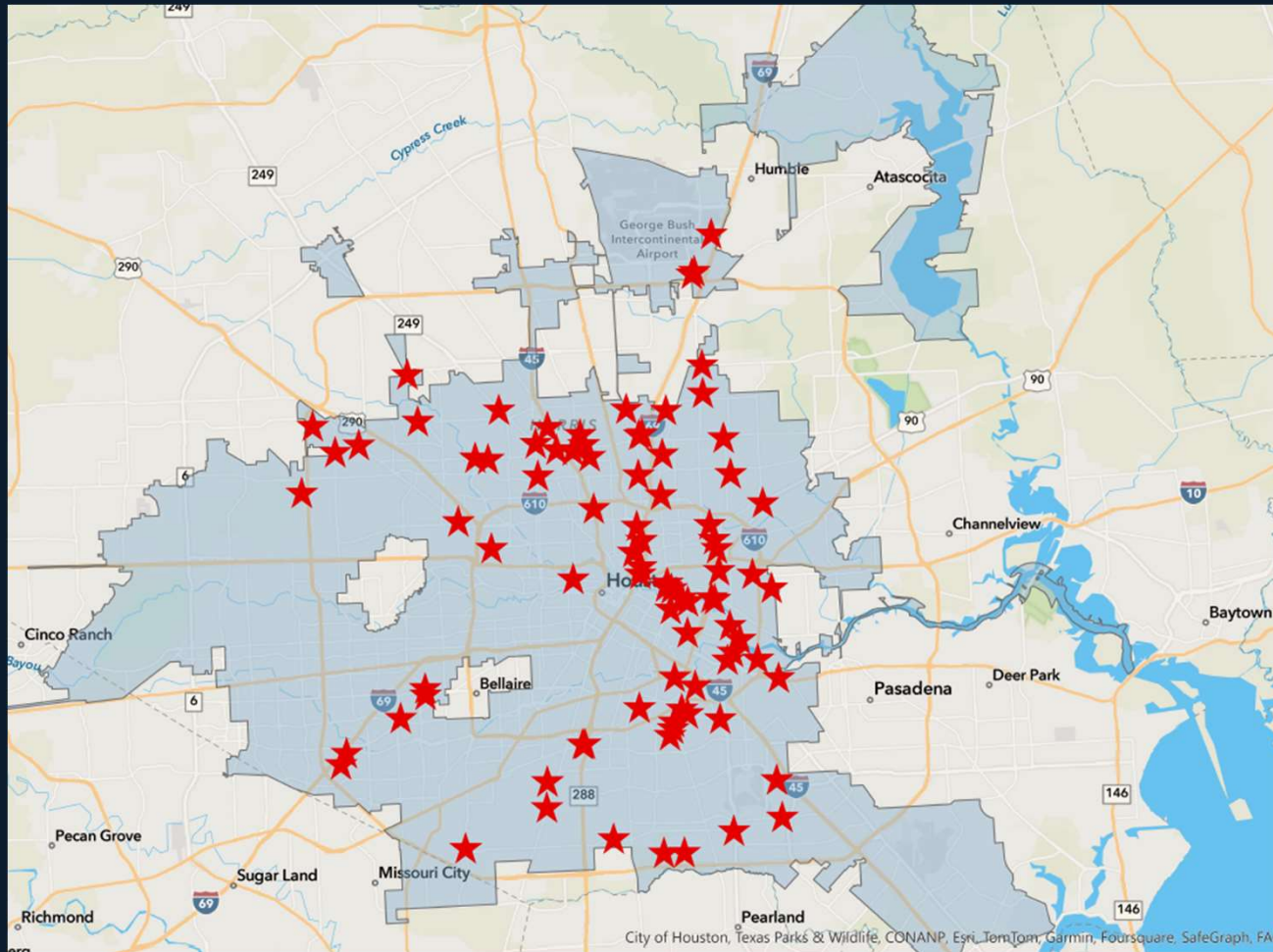




Metal Recycling Facilities



88
Facilities



Houston Catalytic Converter Crimes Task Force

Funding provides the Solutions

Multi-Unit, Collaborative Task Force

Auto Theft Division, Precious Metals Theft Unit, Patrol and Air Support

Physical Theft of Catalytic Converters

Entry of Catalytic Converters into recycling stream

Reactive Investigations

Proactive Investigations

Undercover/Covert Operations

Regulatory Enforcement

Crime Prevention and Education



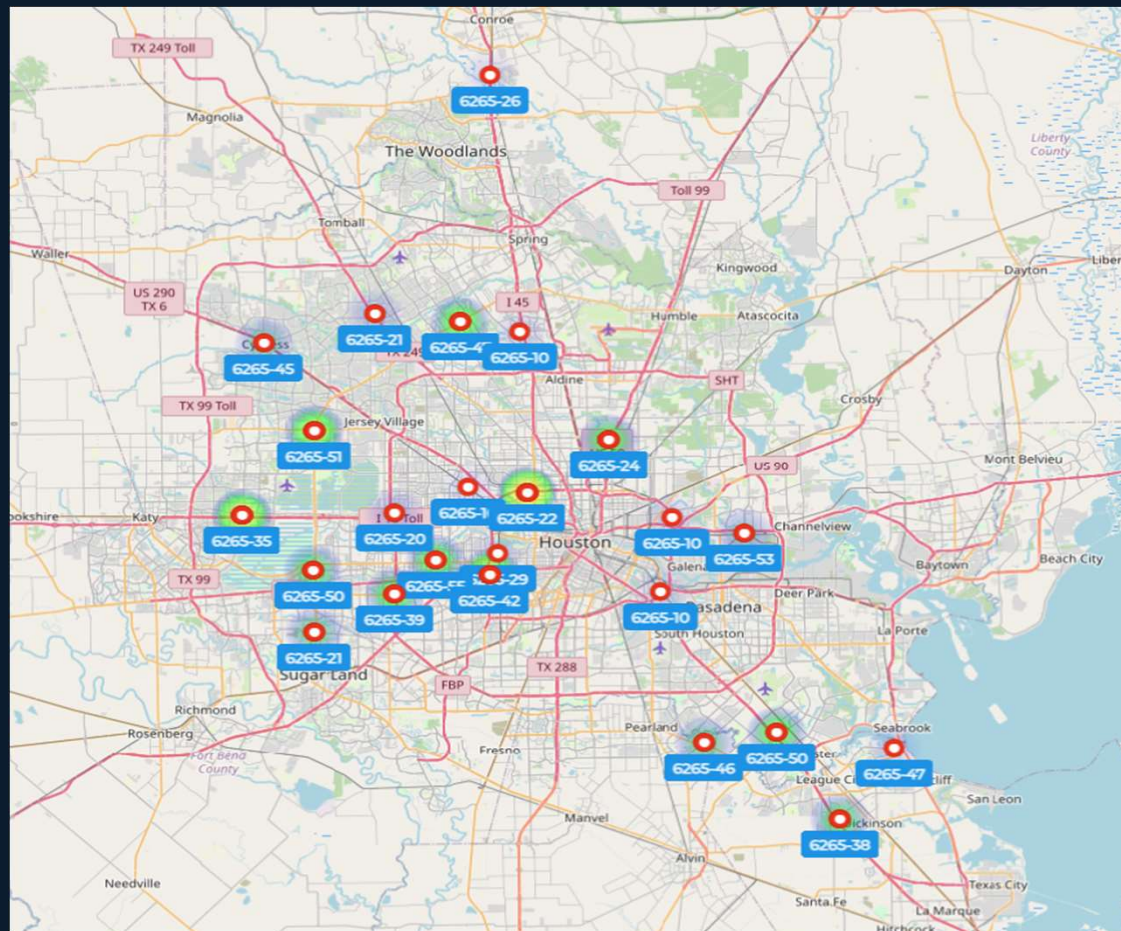
Catalytic Converter thefts Penske Trucks Locations in and around Houston and Harris County



147 Thefts

7 Months

\$612,000+



P
r
o
b
l
e
m



Operation vehicle



Houston Catalytic Converter Crimes Task Force



PENSKE

Personnel – **Crime Analyst**

Overtime – **Nighttime Thefts**

Technology/Equipment – **Covert**

Surveillance Equipment and trackers

LPR Services – **Identify vehicles**

Auto Theft Trends

- Hyundai/Kia challenge
- Key Programming Devices
- Common Powertrain Controllers (CPC)



HPD Auto Theft Response

- Response
 - MVCPA Grant Funding
 - Reactive, Proactive, Undercover and Regulatory investigations
 - Streamlined divisional manpower
 - Increased training both within the Auto Theft Division and Department-wide
 - Auto Theft Assistant District Attorney
- Results
 - 2023 v. 2022
 - Total charges filed up 22%
 - Operations conducted up 41%
 - YTD 2024 v. YTD 2023
 - Total charges filed up 19%
 - Operations conducted up 43%

Thank you

