

Specialized Recycling Inc.

561 Horton Street E.

London ON

N6B 1M8

February 13, 2020.

Chair

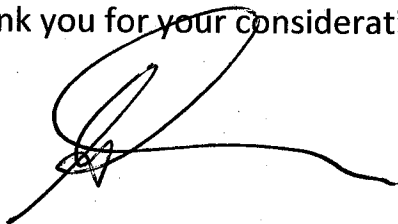
Community And Protective Services Committee.

Re: Theft Of Metal.

Dear Sir.

Please accept this letter as our formal request for Delegate Status to speak to the above captioned agenda item. I believe that we are uniquely situated to provide important information and insight regarding the issue at hand.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Charlie Gelin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Gelin

Specialized Recycling Inc.

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561 Horton St E
London ON N6B 1M8

February 14, 2020

Chair and Members
Community Protective Services Committee
City Of London

With respect to item 2.10, Suppressing Crime Through Business Licensing regulations, Theft of Gasoline and Scrap Metal.

“Scrap metal buyers provide the necessary link for creating profit from scrap metal theft”

-O. Katolyk, Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, City of London.

“Our concern is the rise in theft of valued metals such as copper and catalytic converters specifically because of their value and how quickly they’re being sold at Salvage Yards with no questions asked”

- O. Katolyk, during CTV London News interview, February 10

“So I would question that perception that someone that just comes in with just a little bit of metal should not get verified for their identification. I think people would have a difference of opinion if their bicycle or lawnmower got stolen out of their back shed”

- O. Katolyk, during CBC News interview, February 10

Through the efforts of the recycling industry, countless tons of all material types are diverted from landfills and repurposed for the manufacture of new goods by many facility operators who collectively employ hundreds, if not thousands of citizens directly and indirectly.

It is therefore highly troubling that Civic Administration would elect to employ indefensible tactics against industry stakeholders rather than engaging with them in collaboration to address their mistaken perception of complicity with crime. In my view, it is conduct unbecoming of City officials to malign the reputation of the recycling industry as a whole by making unfounded statements which would lead Londoners to believe that when their bicycles and lawn mowers are being stolen, that they are being sold for scrap metal. It implies criminality to the recycling industry and the citizens working in it and is particularly egregious when such comments are made in the context of an effort to defend actions which are severely misaligned with the values of our community as a whole. It is worth considering that an average gas lawn mower with a 75lb weight would attract a payment of around \$4 and a bicycle considerably less. It is therefore far more likely that such stolen items are being resold as goods, rather than scrap.

With respect to identification requirements, our company requires all persons who wish to sell metal products verify their identity in accordance with municipal regulations and other statutory requirements. Additionally, we digitally record all transactions. As a matter of policy, our company does not accept catalytic converters from non-commercial clients. As a licensed automotive recycling facility, we have been victimized by this activity on many occasions, as have many of our clients. The assertion that high value scrap is accepted with “No questioned asked” is not consistent with my knowledge of industry practices.

Specialized Recycling believes that enacting an overly strict identity verification process will serve to further marginalize disadvantaged Londoners more than they already are. Many people rely on the meagre income they receive from recycling unwanted and damaged materials.

Our company has assisted the London Police and other businesses on many occasions in recovering stolen goods, not limited to vehicles, graveyard urns and other aggravating instances of theft. We have never been unable to identify an offender either by written records or digitally. I have been concerned by some incidents where the Police have not, in my view responded appropriately to reported suspected theft incidents, however I recognize that resources are finite and understand that they face exceptional challenges. It is trite to state that the optimal number of metals theft incidents is zero, however it is important to maintain perspective by viewing these incidents within the context of property crime overall.

**Theft of metals reported to London Police Service
(Percentage of total property crimes in parentheses)**

Year	Reports of Copper Theft	Reports of Catalytic Converter Theft	Total Property Crime
2016	150 (1.11 %)	6 (0.04%)	13601
2017	158 (1.08 %)	17 (0.12%)	14623
2018	172 (1.07 %)	48 (0.29%)	16105
2019	284	81	Unavailable

Source: "Suppressing Crime Through Business Licensing regulations, Theft of Gasoline and Scrap Metal", O. Katolyk. Total Property Crime percentages derived from statistics published by London Police Service.

We were unable to obtain statistical data for the overall amount of property crime increase for the year 2019, however by extrapolation of the growth of the overall numbers of property crime between 2016-2018 divided by reported copper theft incidents for 2019, it would seem to suggest a growth rate of copper theft incidents by around 0.5% in 2019 relative to overall property crime numbers assuming there has not been a concomitant spike in property crimes overall.

It is impossible to view this issue in isolation from the myriad of social ills that are currently plaguing our community. Due to our location, in the central core of the City, and our open door policy, we have a front row seat to witness firsthand the effects of poverty, underfunding of mental health services, and addiction. We see many people in our neighbourhood who are either homeless, or in the shelters due to the housing crisis being lived by too many citizens. It trivializes the hardship caused by poverty in London when a city employee presents himself as a disadvantaged person in an effort to manufacture a charge against a local business.

Given the City's media release February 10, I was compelled to correct the record publicly. The subsequent response from the department responsible is an attempt to avoid accountability for the actions which they initially sought to publicize, however now seem reluctant to stand behind in the light of day. If municipal regulations aren't "worth the paper they are printed on without being audited for compliance", it follows that municipal officials are not exempt from scrutiny when they fall short of the standards of integrity which can rightly be expected of them. In such an event, it then falls to our elected representatives to exercise their management oversight function to correct the situation.

I would therefore ask the committee to consider what action is required in order to restore confidence in the fairness of municipal law enforcement .

I thank you all for your consideration of the matter.

Charlie Gelinas
Manager
Specialized Recycling Inc.





London
CANADA

October 2, 2019

Dear Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to remind Licensees of second hand goods businesses and salvage yards that prohibition 6.3 of Schedule 18 of the Business Licensing By-law prohibits Licensees to acquire any goods, articles or objects from any person who appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol or from any persons without first verifying their identity.

The City, along with various partners, have been addressing the issue of persons sleeping rough and urban encampments. Under the program, titled Community Informed Response, staff have observed individuals (on many occasions) who have collected a variety of forms of metal (bike frames, copper wiring and auto parts) in shopping carts for the purposes of disposing these goods at salvage yards. In many cases, these goods have been obtained illegally.

Please be advised, that the City may undertake a future enforcement blitz to ensure that Licensees are verifying the identity of all persons who attend their premise for the purposes of disposing of these goods. Violations of the Business Licensing By-law may lead to charges, legal actions, and/or licence suspensions.

Please call the undersigned if you have any questions.

Regards

Orest Katolyk
Chief Municipal Law Enforcement
P: 519-661-2489 x 4969 – email: okatolyk@london.ca

Cc: London Police Service
Community Informed Response