



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE DEPARTMENT RECOVERS STOLEN CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – April 28, 2021 – On Monday, April 26, 2021, members of the Athens Police Department and the 10th Judicial District Drug Task Force served a search warrant at an auto body shop at 521 East Ave. The search warrant came as the result of a lengthy investigation into alleged narcotics activity there, as well as an ongoing investigation into stolen catalytic converters. The city has experienced a recent rash of catalytic converter thefts. Typically, officers receive reports that citizens go to start their vehicle, only to discover that someone has cut the converter off their car. The converters can typically be resold for several hundred dollars, but the cost for damage to the victim's vehicle far exceeds that.

When officers served the search warrant, they found several people on site. They recovered a stolen vehicle, numerous catalytic converters, drug paraphernalia, and methamphetamine.

Charges against several individuals will likely be forthcoming, but the investigation is still ongoing.

Chief Couch, of the Police Department, said "I am grateful for the hard work by so many officers that went into this investigation. I'm equally thankful for the efforts of our friends at the Drug Task Force. These thefts cause real harm to real people, and we hope that this action will put a huge dent in the damage our citizens have been suffering."