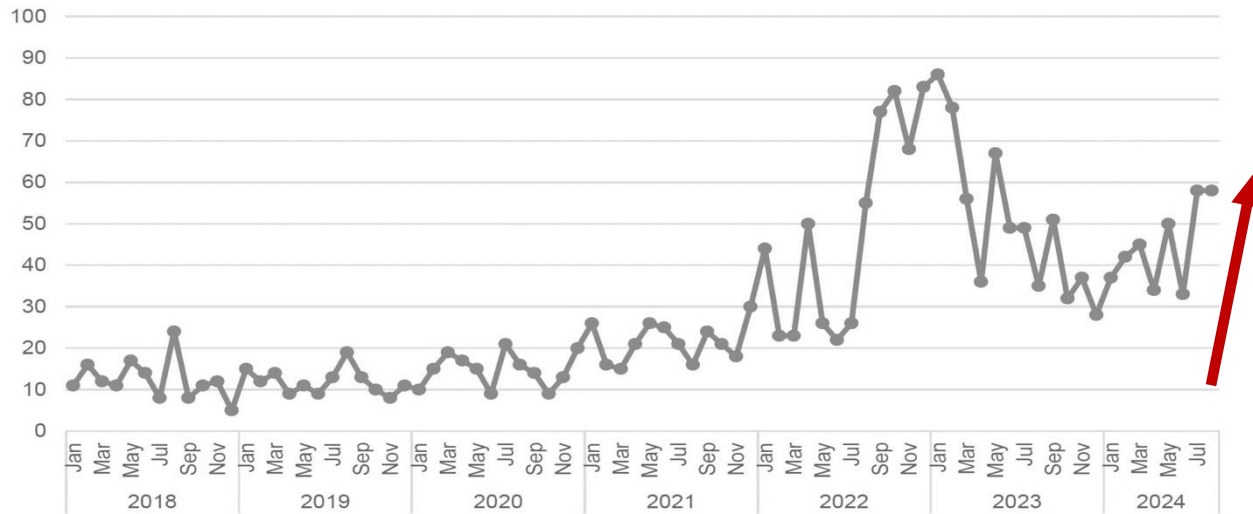


# **A Policy Proposal to Reduce Scrap Metal Thefts by Regulating Sales**

**Sponsored by Denver City Council Members  
Darrell B. Watson (D-9) and Flor Alvidrez (D-7)**

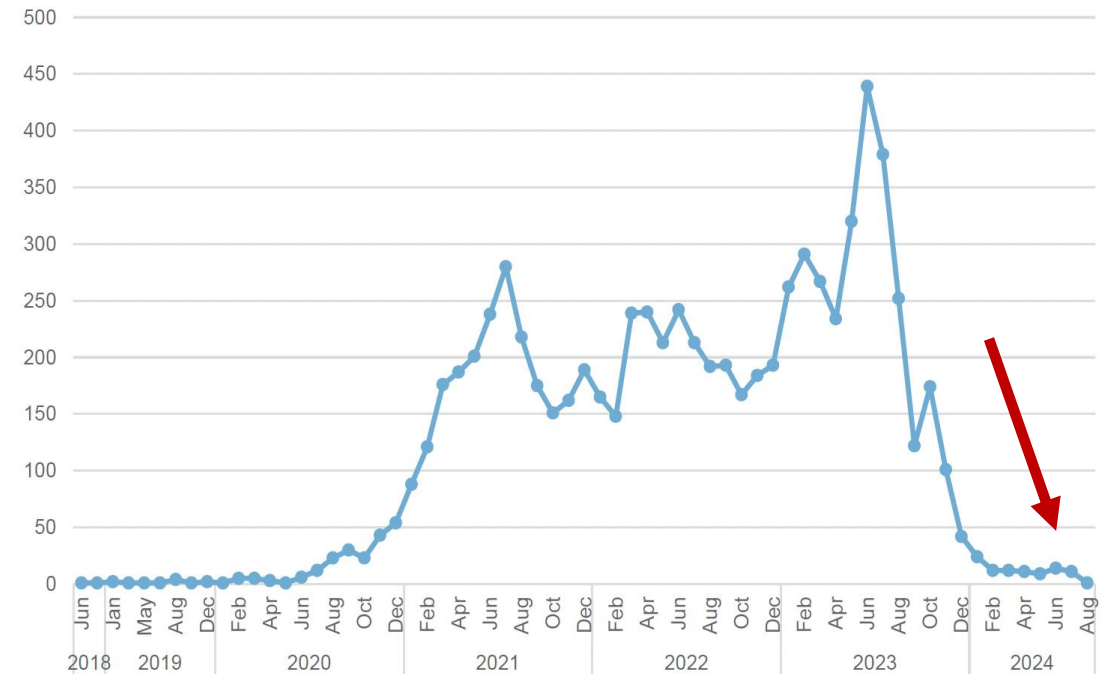
# The Problem is Scrap Metal Theft

Metal Theft by Year and Month  
(excluding catalytic converters)



**Thefts of Commodity “Scrap” Metals  
are Increasing**

Catalytic Converter Theft by Year and Month



**Thefts of Catalytic Converters are  
Decreasing**

# Scrap Metal Thefts by District and Years



This data does not include catalytic converter thefts and is provided by the Denver Police Department.

|              | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       | 2025      | Total        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| CD 1         | 10         | 9          | 11         | 13         | 50         | 46         | 25         | 11        | 175          |
| CD 2         | 1          | 7          | 3          | 1          | 23         | 13         | 19         | 0         | 67           |
| CD 3         | 25         | 10         | 11         | 21         | 78         | 79         | 60         | 3         | 287          |
| CD 4         | 5          | 3          | 4          | 10         | 10         | 31         | 20         | 0         | 83           |
| CD 5         | 7          | 5          | 7          | 13         | 27         | 42         | 27         | 3         | 131          |
| CD 6         | 3          | 3          | 1          | 7          | 36         | 32         | 32         | 9         | 123          |
| CD 7         | 8          | 10         | 9          | 23         | 42         | 64         | 49         | 7         | 212          |
| CD 8         | 14         | 33         | 21         | 40         | 93         | 95         | 119        | 6         | 421          |
| CD 9         | 25         | 24         | 45         | 61         | 88         | 84         | 73         | 16        | 416          |
| CD 10        | 6          | 5          | 4          | 11         | 30         | 24         | 40         | 5         | 125          |
| CD 11        | 4          | 6          | 10         | 11         | 23         | 15         | 13         | 1         | 83           |
| Unknown      | 0          | 1          | 2          | 3          | 11         | 18         | 12         | 3         | 50           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>108</b> | <b>116</b> | <b>128</b> | <b>214</b> | <b>511</b> | <b>543</b> | <b>489</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>2,173</b> |

# Scrap Metal Thefts by Location 2018 - 2025



This data does not include catalytic converter thefts and is provided by the Denver Police Department.

| Location                          | Thefts     |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Air/Bus/Train Terminal            | 28         |
| Arena/Stadiums/Fairgrounds        | 2          |
| Savings and Loan/Bank             | 3          |
| Bar/Night Club                    | 6          |
| Church/Temple/Mosque              | 19         |
| <b>Commercial/Office Building</b> | <b>232</b> |
| <b>Construction Site</b>          | <b>439</b> |
| Convenience Store                 | 7          |
| Daycare Facility                  | 1          |
| Department/Discount Store         | 23         |
| Drug Store/Medical Offices        | 9          |
| Field/Woods (Not Parks)           | 100        |
| Government/Public Building        | 33         |
| Grocery Store/Supermarket         | 2          |

| Location                          | Thefts       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk</b> | <b>297</b>   |
| Hotel/Motel/Etc.                  | 14           |
| Liquor Store                      | 1            |
| Park/Playground                   | 4            |
| Parking Lot/Garage                | 98           |
| Rental Storage Facility           | 12           |
| <b>Residence/Home</b>             | <b>254</b>   |
| Restaurant                        | 18           |
| School/College/University         | 4            |
| Service/Gas Station               | 4            |
| Specialty Store                   | 30           |
| Unknown / Other                   | 520          |
| <b>Total Thefts: 2018 - 2025</b>  | <b>2,173</b> |

# The Solution:

## Regulate Sales of Scrap Metal like Sales of Used Catalytic Converters

### Buyer Requirements for Catalytic Converters

- ✓ Verify Seller's Government ID
- ✓ Prohibit Walk-Up Transactions
- ✓ No Cash Transactions
- ✓ Collect Seller and Vehicle Information
- ✓ Require a Seller Affidavit Attesting the Inventory was Lawfully Acquired
- ✓ Separate and Quarantine Incoming Inventory
- ✓ Maintain Inventory Records for 180+ Days

### Proposed Requirements for Scrap Metal

- ✓ Verify Seller's Government ID
- ✓ Prohibit Walk-Up Transactions
- ✓ No Cash Transactions
- ✓ Collect Seller and Vehicle Information
- ✓ Require a Seller Affidavit Attesting the Inventory was Lawfully Acquired
- ✓ Separate and Quarantine Incoming Inventory
- ✓ Maintain Inventory Records for 180+ Days

# What Metal Qualifies as Scrap Metal?

## Scrap Metal means any metal...

- Obtained by demolishing, disassembling, or cutting from its intended use, or intended for reuse or recycling; and
- Includes Copper, Copper Alloys, Bronze, Brass, and Aluminum.

## Scrap Metal is NOT

- Coins or precious metals like gold, silver, and platinum.
- Recyclable food and beverage containers.

**Copper**



**Bronze**



**Brass**



**Aluminum**



# Proposed Policies for Enforcement

Denver news

## Thieves do up to \$50k of damage to city's EV chargers — and get \$120 of copper

Three EV chargers at Scheitler Recreation Center will be offline for up to two months.



Ishan Thakore

Feb. 26, 2025, 5:15 pm

3 min. read



An EV charger at Berkeley Lake Park is defunct after someone cut its copper cables. Feb. 26, 2025.

Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite

## Responsible Departments

- **Denver Department of Excise and Licensing:** Oversees compliance and licensing of junk dealers.
- **Denver Police Department:** May conduct inspections and enforcement.

## Enforcement Process

- **Transaction Monitoring:** Detailed records of purchases, like sales and affidavits, must held for 180 days.
- **Inspection Protocols:** The City can inspect transaction records and inventory during business hours.

## Consequences of Non-Compliance

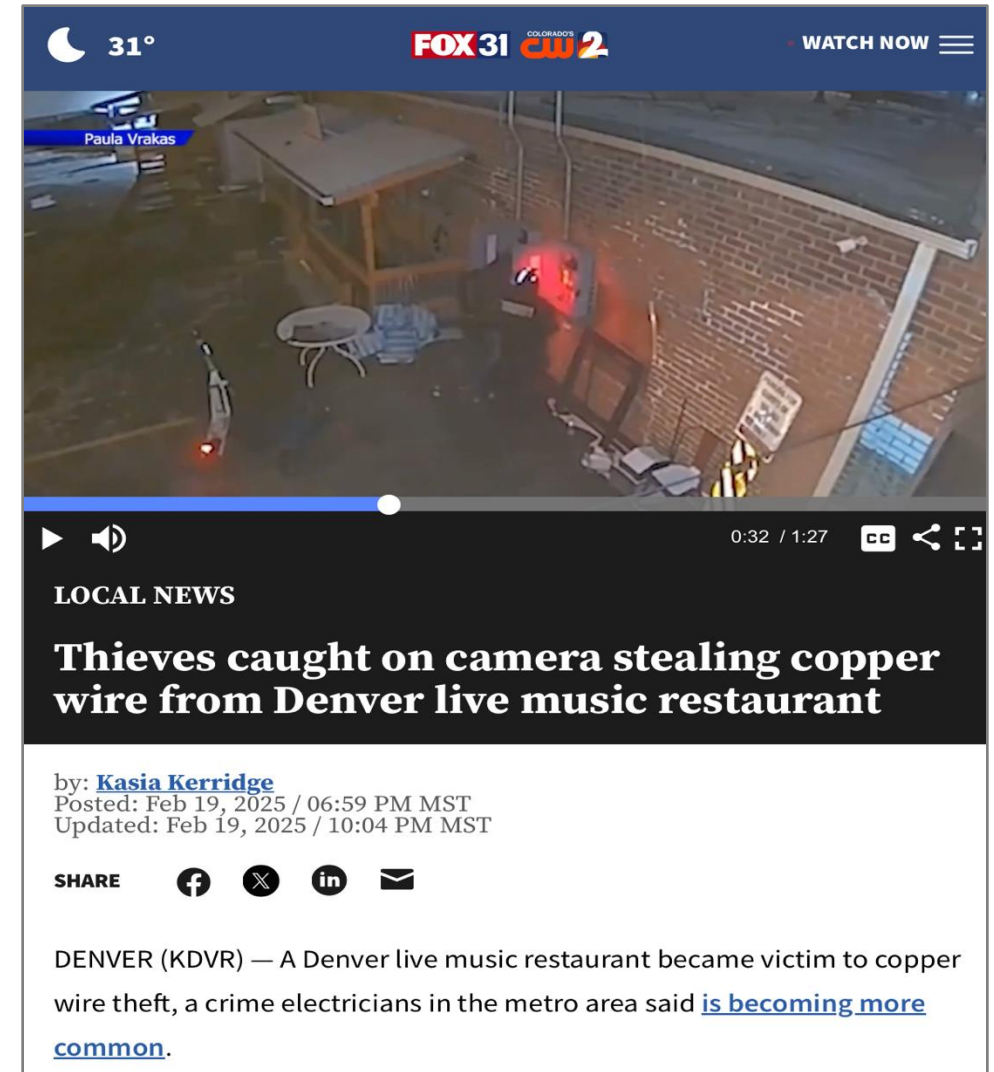
- **Civil Penalties:** Fines of up to \$5k per violation per day.
- **License Revocation:** Non-compliance can result in license suspension or revocation.

# Draft Policy Proposal

- **Sec. 45-66:** Definitions
  - **Junk dealer:** A business that stores, buys, or sells scrap metal or other junk.
  - **Scrap metal:** Metal like copper, bronze, brass, or aluminum that is demolished, or disassembled for recycling, excluding precious metals.
- **Sec. 45-127(a):** Purchases must arrive by motor vehicle only and not transported via a cart or walkup.
- **Sec. 45-127(b):** Scrap metal inventory must be held separately for at least 10 days.
- **Sec. 45-127(c):** Cash payments for scrap metal are prohibited like with catalytic converters.
- **Sec. 45-127(d):** Junk dealers must keep scrap metal sales records, including:
  - A photo or video showing the seller, their vehicle, license plate, and the scrap metal.
  - A copy of the seller's valid photo ID.
  - A signed seller affidavit explaining how and where they got the scrap metal and that it was obtained legally.
- Records shall be maintained for 180 and law enforcement may inspect these records.
- **Sec. 45-127(e):** Violations are civil penalties with fines not to exceed \$5,000, per violation, per day.

# Draft Policy Proposal

- **Sec. 45-127(f):** The following transactions are exempt:
  - Scrap metal from licensed junk dealers, utilities, government entities, or charities.
  - Recyclable food and beverage containers
  - Donations to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.
- **Sec. 45-136(a):** Requires a “junk dealer” license, issued by the Department of Excise and Licensing, to maintain, operate, or use for storing, keeping, buying, or selling scrap metal or other junk.
- **Sec. 45-136(b):** Coin and/or phone collection kiosks do not require a license and are exempt from the policy.



# Timeline and Outreach

**Stakeholder Meeting (6/13/24):** Nonprofits, Businesses, Denver Police, & Neighbors

**Community Meeting (7/11/24):** Neighbors, City Officials, Businesses, & Nonprofits

**Stakeholder Meeting (8/9/24):** City Officials, Nonprofits, Neighbors, & Businesses

**Community Meeting (9/6/24):** Neighbors, Businesses, Nonprofits, & City Officials

**Stakeholder Meeting (12/13/24):** Businesses, City Officials, Nonprofits, & Neighbors

**Community Meeting (3/18/25):** Nonprofits, Businesses, Neighbors, & City Officials

**Industry Roundtable (3/21/25):** Scrap Metal Recyclers & City Officials

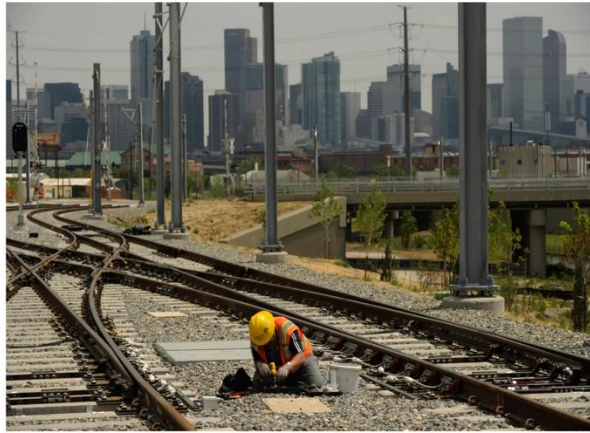
**Scrap Yard Tour (4/4/25):** Scrap Metal Recyclers & City Officials

**Budget & Policy Presentation (4/7/25):** Council Members & City Officials

**Community Meeting (4/22/25):** Nonprofits, Businesses, Neighbors, & City Officials

**Business Committee Presentation (Proposed for April 2025):** Council Members

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings at City Council (Proposed for April 2025):** Council Members



**Night thefts of copper wire worth \$110,000 disrupted RTD trains 21 times since April**

One person arrested, and RTD officials say many thieves involved

RTD FasTracks contract electrician Wayne Trujillo worked on wiring inside a heater box along tracks near the rail station at Federal Boulevard and Decatur Street on May 17, 2012.



By **BRUCE FINLEY** | bfinley@denverpost.com | The Denver Post  
UPDATED: October 16, 2024 at 3:24 PM MDT

Copper wire thefts along Regional Transportation District rails at night have disrupted train service 21 times since April and thieves escaped with wires worth about \$110,000, transit agency officials announced on Wednesday.

# Questions and Discussion

## Stolen MLK statue art recovered from scrap yard: Police



Two suspects are being sought in the theft, authorities said.

By [Bill Hutchinson](#)

February 28, 2024, 6:14 PM



**DR. VERN L. HOWARD**

President of Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission

**MLK monument vandalized in Denver park during Black History Month** A monument honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. created by the nation's first Black astronaut-turned-sculptor was vandalized in a Denver park.

Three bronze artworks thieves pried off a [Denver monument](#) of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have been recovered by police, who are searching for two suspects who allegedly sold the pieces as scrap metal, authorities said.