Reference #
15680139

DENVER
CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar
25-0600: Council members Alvidrez and Watson will present an amendment to chapter 45 of the Code to regulate the purchase of scrap metal by junk dealers. / Los concejales Alvidrez y Watson presentarán una enmienda al capítulo 45 del Código para regular la compra de chatarra por parte de comerciantes de metales.

First Name / Nombre
Anthony

Last Name / Apelido
Gengaro

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:
Council District 6 / Distrito 6

I am / Estoy
For the item / a favor del articulo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:
Written Testimony in Support of Chapter 45 Amendments to Regulate Scrap Metal Sales.
Dear Honorable Members of City Council,
On behalf of our organization, which has been actively involved in managing and maintaining public spaces throughout numerous Denver communities for decades, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to Chapter 45 of the Denver Code of Ordinances regulating the purchase of scrap metal by junk and metal dealers.
As an operations and management partner for multiple Special Improvement Districts, Business

Improvement Districts, Local Maintenance Districts, and Creative Districts across the metro area, we see firsthand the impacts that scrap metal theft has on both public infrastructure and private property. Our work focuses on creating safe, vibrant, and welcoming environments for businesses, residents, and visitors. The continued loss and damage to infrastructure from scrap metal theft not only undermines these efforts but also directly increases costs for taxpayers and small businesses.

Our organization, like many others, has been on the receiving end of repeated vandalism and thefts—particularly targeting backflow devices, irrigation control wiring, and other metal components critical to maintaining public spaces. Even with preventative measures like cages and locks, theft remains rampant. The financial burden from these incidents—both direct repair costs and the indirect effects on property value and economic vibrancy—is growing unsustainable for the districts and communities we serve.

The proposed regulations—requiring verification of government ID, prohibiting walk-up and cash transactions, collecting seller and vehicle information, mandating seller affidavits, and maintaining inventory records—are sensible and proven. These measures protect public infrastructure, reduce criminal incentives, and support the legitimate recycling industry without impeding lawful trade.

We are particularly encouraged by the success of similar efforts, such as the catalytic converter ordinance, which saw thefts drop by 95% after stronger regulations were introduced. We believe the same success can be achieved in reducing scrap metal theft, benefiting the entire city.

Ultimately, this policy protects the investments Denver has made in its public spaces, preserves essential services, supports small businesses and nonprofits, and enhances the quality of life in our neighborhoods. As longtime stakeholders committed to Denver's vitality and resilience, we urge City Council to adopt this important amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony Gengaro

President

Metro Denver Local Development Corp.

Finish Time

2025-04-28 14:22:07

Reference #
15685317

DENVER
CITY COUNCIL

I am giving testimony on / Tema sobre el que le gustaría comentar
25-0600: Council members Alvidrez and Watson will present an amendment to chapter 45 of the Code to regulate the purchase of scrap metal by junk dealers. / Los concejales Alvidrez y Watson presentarán una enmienda al capítulo 45 del Código para regular la compra de chatarra por parte de comerciantes de metales.

First Name / Nombre
Annissa

Last Name / Apelido
Reed

I am a resident of: / Soy residente del:

I am / Estoy
For the item / a favor del articulo

My testimony: / Mi testimonio:
April 30, 2025

The Honorable Shontel Lewis
Chair, Business, Arts, Workforce & Aviation Services Committee
Arie P. Taylor Municipal Center
4685 Peoria St., #245
Denver, CO 80239

Dear Chair Lewis and Members of the Business, Arts, Workforce & Aviation Services Committee:
On behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 45 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code to strengthen regulations on scrap metal purchases by junk dealers and urge the Committee to consider expanding the regulations to cover critical telecommunications infrastructure.

CTIA supports this Ordinance because scrap metal theft related to vandalism of critical telecommunications infrastructure poses a real and growing threat to wireless connectivity that supports public safety, economic activity, and daily life in Denver and across the nation. At a time of exploding consumer demand for wireless services, our industry is working hard to deploy infrastructure for Denver communities. In 2023 alone, the wireless industry invested $30 billion in private funding nationwide to improve connectivity for consumers. Our members report increasing incidents of copper theft and vandalism at wireless sites, with bad actors often seeking to sell stolen metal into unregulated or loosely tracked scrap markets. This puts this ongoing progress to connect communities at serious risk.

In 2024 alone, nearly 4,000 incidents of theft and vandalism were reported between June and August. While attention has focused on the price and resulting theft of copper, these incidents are increasingly impacting all manners of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure, including antennas, batteries, and cabinet parts. One specific copper theft incident in Denver caused approximately $800,000 in damage to a wireless carrier's small cell sites, which disrupted service in multiple neighborhoods and jeopardized network reliability until repairs could be made. This is not an isolated case, and the impacts of these incidents are broad-ranging and significant. Disruption of 911 systems and public safety communications can delay emergency response times. Health care networks heavily depend on broadband connectivity for patient care, access to medical records, medical devices and telemedicine services. Our transportation systems depend on connectivity. In recent years, all these sectors and many others have been directly impacted by telecommunications vandalism.

These priorities are at risk when stolen materials enter secondary markets with limited safeguards. CTIA strongly supports common sense policies like those included in this Ordinance to strengthen scrap metal purchasing protocols. Requiring sellers to provide identification, mandating that purchases be transported via vehicle, banning cash payments, and improving record-keeping are critical tools to help law enforcement deter and track illicit activity. However, we suggest extending the holding period beyond 10 days for certain high-risk scrap metal/equipment types (e.g., large spools of copper or telecommunications batteries) to allow law enforcement sufficient time to verify legal ownership.

Given the ongoing impacts of these incidents and our members' commitment to continue improving connectivity in Denver, we strongly support this Ordinance and urge you to consider expanding it to include critical telecommunications infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Annissa Reed
Director, State and Local Affairs

Finish Time

2025-04-30 05:26:13

DENVER WATER

1600 West 12th Ave
Denver, CO 80204-3412
303.628.6000
denverwater.org

April 29, 2025

Council member Flor Alvidrez
City and County Building
1437 Bannock St, Room 451
Denver, CO 80202

Council member Darrel Watson
2855 Tremont Pl, Suite 201
Denver, CO 80205

Re: Support for proposed Policy to Reduce Scrap Metal Theft by Regulating Sales

Dear Council members Alvidrez and Watson,

On behalf of Denver Water, the water provider for Denver, I am writing to express support for the proposed ordinance to regulate scrap metal sales in Denver. This initiative is an important step toward curbing scrap metal theft, which has had negative impacts on our community and could cause disruptions to Denver Water's operations.

In recent years, we've seen an increase in thefts involving the copper components from backflow prevention devices, which prevent nonpotable water from flowing back into the potable water system and are a critical component to the safety of our drinking water system.

Backflow prevention devices are installed between the water supplier's delivery pipes and a customer's internal plumbing. These devices are owned and maintained by property and business owners who must have these devices inspected and tested annually. Denver Water's service area has about 44,000 locations where backflow prevention devices exist**,** and we estimate that hundreds of these devices are stolen each year. These thefts can disrupt water service, prevent timely testing and result in regulatory violations with significant consequences.

In addition to the public health risks and disruption that missing backflow preventers can cause, backflow preventer theft imposes a financial burden on property owners, including the City and County of Denver. Nonresidential backflow preventers are expensive to replace, costing upward of $10,000 depending on type and complexity. Theft-prevention measures, such as protective enclosures, tamper-proof locks and surveillance systems, also add to the overall cost.

A more transparent and accountable system for scrap metal transactions, similar to the measures taken to reduce catalytic converter theft, will deter criminal activities, help protect public health, reduce financial losses and ensure the reliability of water service.

Denver Water commends City Council for recognizing the importance of this issue and for taking proactive steps to safeguard our community. We encourage you to pass this proposed ordinance, which will help safeguard our drinking water infrastructure, thereby protecting public health and reducing unnecessary financial burdens on our community.

Sincerely,

Alan Salazar
CEO/Manager, Denver Water

CC:
Amanda Sandoval
Kevin Flynn
Jamie Torres
Diana Romero Campbell
Amanda Sawyer
Paul Kashmann
Shontel Lewis
Chris Hinds
Stacie Gilmore
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez
Sarah Parady