



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Charged with Five Counts of Stealing for Catalytic Converter Theft

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ronald Neal Willis, 44, of Aurora, Missouri has been charged with five counts of felony stealing of catalytic converters.

On July 1, 2021, Republic Police officers were dispatched to Walmart. Officers found Ronald Willis in possession of a catalytic converter. That converter was later determined to be stolen. On July 15, 2021 Officers responded to Sawyer Road in Republic for a report of a past theft of catalytic converters. Detectives from the Republic Police Department were later able to determine that the defendant had stolen those converters the night before.

It takes only minutes, sometimes less than a minute to completely remove a catalytic converter. Repairs are often in the thousands of dollars and disable the vehicle until such repairs are carried out. To protect your vehicle, park in a secured garage or well-lit area.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v.
Willis,

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Conor Browne. It is being investigated by the Republic Police Department and Detective Lucas Peery is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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