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**NEWS
RELEASE**

8/10/2021

Catalytic Converter Buyer Arrested

Date: August 5, 2021

Location: 5900 block of Montana

Offender: 34 –year old Jose Fernando Diaz

Charge: Solicit Purchase Regulated Material Unauthorized Location

Bond: \$5,000 Judge: Horkowitz

EL PASO, Texas — A 34 –year old man offering on a certain social media platform to buy catalytic converters has been arrested. On August 5th, an undercover officer contacted Jose Fernando Diaz on the phone number listed on the social media post and offered to sell a catalytic converter to Diaz. The undercover officer met with Diaz in a parking lot at the 5900 block of Montana. Diaz inspected the catalytic converter and paid the undercover officer \$80 for it. Diaz was arrested and booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility. Thefts of catalytic converters has been steadily increasing at a costly price to victims and several arrests of the thieves have been made. To further curtail and deter this crime, enforcement measures will be taken against illegal buyers of catalytic converters. Only “metal recycling entities” following all state regulations can legally purchase or offer to purchase catalytic converters. Buyer beware, if not in legitimate business according to state regulations, operations of this type are ongoing.



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