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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Man Indicted for Catalytic Converter Thefts

State v. Murat Shokhzodayev, 2022-CR-2276

DAYTON, OH (09/09/2022) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **MURAT UMARZHONOVICH SHOKHZODAYEV**, 24, of Dayton, has been indicted for the thefts of catalytic converters.

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, Englewood Police were dispatched to Boone Restoration on Harco Drive on a report of a catalytic converter being stolen from a box truck. The business had video surveillance cameras that recorded the defendant stealing the part around 3:00 am that morning. Further investigation was able to identify the defendant from the vehicle he was driving.

On August 13, 2022, the defendant was located in Harrison Township. When officers took the defendant into custody, his car was impounded and searched. Inside the defendant's vehicle, officers located three power saws, a dozen catalytic converters, and other tools used for stealing the converters. Once news of the arrest was broadcast, Englewood Police were contacted by White Allen Chevrolet regarding the theft of two catalytic converters that had recently been stolen from a box truck on their lot. Officers were able to positively match the damaged truck to two of the converters found in the defendant's vehicle.

Today, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted the defendant for:

- One count of Theft > \$1,000
- One count of Receiving Stolen Property > \$1,000
- One count of Vandalism
- Two counts of Possession of Criminal Tools

Prosecutor Heck added, "Catalytic converter theft is a very real problem everywhere. Scrap metal recyclers pay \$100 or so for a scrap converter, but the cost to the victim to replace a converter can easily exceed \$2,000. State legislators need to pass legislation making it harder to sell catalytic converters to metal recyclers."

The defendant will be arraigned on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 8:30 am.

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