



Houston Police Department  
Burglary and Theft Division  
Precious Metals Unit  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee  
Meeting Presentation  
January 22, 2013

# Issue/Problem

- ✦ Precious Metals have increased in value over the last 10 years
  - ✦ Gold has increased 674%
  - ✦ Silver has increased close 1000%
- ✦ In a one year period, we had over 4,800 burglaries of \$10,000 or more in stolen jewelry

# Trends in Jewelry Crime

- ✦ In 2007, there was over \$21 million of jewelry stolen
- ✦ In 2011, it rose to \$41 million
- ✦ That is close to 100% increase in 4 years.

# The Precious Metals Unit

## Goals Are:

- ✦ To conduct Inspections
- ✦ To ensure that businesses are recording, reporting and holding property per law
- ✦ To offer assistance and knowledge to others
- ✦ And to be a liaison between the business community and law enforcement

# Precious Metals Unit Education

- ✦ We have educated precious metals dealers on state law, current city ordinance and proposed changes to city ordinance
- ✦ We have trained officers and businesses on how to use Electronic Web Based Reporting System
- ✦ We have conducted business association meetings
- ✦ We have fostered a working relationship with Second Hand Precious Metal Dealers in the city

# Two Permits are required to buy or sell precious metals




**CITY OF HOUSTON**  
**OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE**

**Business Name:** *(Name of Business)*  
**Issued To:** *(Name of Applicant)*  
**Address:** *(Applicant's Address)*  
HOUSTON, TX 77xxx US  
**Service Address:** *(Address where license will be used)*  
Houston, Texas 77xxx

**Issue Date:** 3/6/2012  
**Permit #:** xxxxx

**Permit For:** 2012 O Precious Metals Dealer  
**Expiration Date:** 2/28/2013  
**Description:**

**Total:** \$103.23

By 

Alfred J. Moran, Director  
Administration & Regulatory Affairs

The issuance of the permit, license or certificate does not constitute approval by the City of Houston for the violation of any deed restrictions, or any city, state and federal laws, regulations, or ordinances. Each holder and other person acting under the authority of this permit, license or certificate is personally responsible for complying with deed restrictions and city, state and federal laws relating to the activity contemplated by this permit, license or certificate.

**THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE POSTED AND VISIBLE FOR INSPECTION**

# State Law already requires

- Texas Administrative Code, Title 7, Part 5, Chapter 85, Subchapter B, Division 2, Rule 85.2001
- A dealer to prepare a transaction report
- Including the date of purchase
- The name and address of the dealer's business location
- Where the dealer purchased the precious metal
- The dealer's registration number
- The full name of the seller, a description of the seller, his/her address and driver's license number
- And a description of the items purchased

# Example of a Bill of Sale that complies with state law

05/29/2012 TUE 12:20 FAX 7137816684 Houston jewelry

003/003

## Bill of Sale & Transaction Report Form #

Seller:			Buyer:		
Name <u>LOTS</u> Address <u>RIAR TERRACE</u> City, State Zip <u>HOUSTON TX 77022</u> Date of Birth <u>01/24/88</u> Height <u>5-07</u> Eye color <u>BRO</u> Gender <u>F</u> DL # <u>TX</u> Phone # <u>832-5054</u>			WESTHEIMER RD HOUSTON, TEXAS Employee <u>RYAN</u>		
			Buyer/Dealer Registration #	Date <u>12/02/11</u>	
No	Purity, Color & Type of Metal	Total t oz g or dwt	Description (rings, chains, forks, trays) / size or length / serial numbers or engraving / gender / gem #, color & size	Qty of Items	Price
1	10K	6.2g	necklace	(1)	89 <sup>00</sup>
2	10K	4.6g	BIG HEART PENDANT 28 1/2 mm 14K color	(1)	96 <sup>00</sup>
3	10K	2.0g	HEART PENDANT 28 1/2 mm 14K color	(1)	45 <sup>00</sup>
4	14K	26.7g	LDS BRACELETS	(1)	540 <sup>00</sup>
5	14K	1.3g	Butterfly pendant	(1)	27 <sup>00</sup>
6	14K	8.2g	3 necklaces	(3)	166 <sup>00</sup>
7	14K	3.4g	circle pendant 30 dia 1/2 14K/L	(1)	159 <sup>00</sup>
8	14K	--	circle rim pendant		20 <sup>00</sup>
9					1,112 <sup>00</sup>
10			CHECK 1,145 <sup>00</sup>	<del>TRAFFIC</del> 1,145 <sup>00</sup>	

For good consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the undersigned seller (also identified above) hereby sells and transfers to the buyer and the buyer's successors and assigns forever the personal property described above. The seller warrants to buyer it has good and marketable title to the property, full authority to sell and transfer the property, and that the property is sold free of all liens, encumbrances, liabilities and adverse claims of every nature and description whatsoever. Seller further warrants to buyer it will fully defend, protect, indemnify and hold harmless the buyer and its lawful successors and assigns from any adverse claim made by any other person.

Signed on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at 3:05 A.M.P.M.  
 Seller's Signature [Signature]

Total amount paid \$ 1,145<sup>00</sup>  
 Check # 11722

"This business is registered under the laws of the State of Texas and by state law is subject to regulatory oversight by the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner. Any consumer wishing to file a complaint against this business may contact the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner through one of the means indicated below: In Person or U.S. Mail: 2601 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78705-4207. Telephone No.: (800) 538-1579. Fax No.: (512) 936-7610. E-mail: consumer.complaints@occc.state.tx.us. Website: www.occc.state.tx.us."



# The Precious Metals Unit Recommends

- ✦ A clear photocopy or digital photograph of all items purchased by the dealer; and
- ✦ Web-based reporting using Leads on Line


# Web Based Reporting System

## used by scrap metal yards and pawn shops

- Dashboard
- My Account
- Search
- Pawn/Secondhand
- Site Listings
- Drop-Off Stores
- Scrap Yard
- Case Search NEW
- Ticket Assistant
- Reports
- Stolen Item List
- Persons Of Interest

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- Log Off
- Help
- Contact Us



**Search**

I certify I am an authorized Law Enforcement official, and this request is directly related to an ongoing criminal investigation. [Review My Agreement](#)

[Back To Dashboard](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[? HELP](#)

Results Choices
Search Hints
Clear Fields

Case Number:  Date Range: Last 7 days

Ticket Number:  Store Location: Louisiana Pawns

Ticket Type: Buy and Unknown Only

ID Number:	<input type="text"/>	Exact	<input type="text" value="Exact"/>	DOB:	<input type="text"/>
Suspect	Name:	Exact	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Search nicknames
	Addr:	Exact	<input type="text"/> # <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>
	City:	Exact	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text" value="--Any--"/>

Description:   Search similar words

Serial Number:  Exact


[Save this Search](#)
[Search](#)

Nice  
neat and  
readable


[View Results Report](#)
[Map These Results](#)
Sort by:  [Sort](#)

219 item(s) found in 7.906 seconds. Page 1 of 9

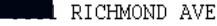

Ticket/Item	Customer	Store
DATE: 6/5/2012 10:30AM NO: 13826 STATUS: Buy Ticket: Buy JEWELRY - BLUE STONE RG, ILLEGIBLE 1952 ACADEMY OR SCHOOL RG 25TH ANNIV PEND 1/2OZ W 5 SMALL DIAS; MAKE: MODEL: SN: 36.2	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] PASADENA, TX	Houston Jewelry Houston, TX
DATE: 6/4/2012 12:50PM NO: 13818 STATUS: Buy Ticket: Buy JEWELRY - ASSORTED PEICES MAKE: MODEL: SN: 58.5 GRAMS	[REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] HOUSTON, TX	Houston Jewelry Houston, TX
DATE: 6/4/2012 12:50PM NO: 13818 STATUS: Buy Ticket: Buy	[REDACTED]	Houston Jewelry

**Customer's Name**  


**ID**  
 TXDL 


**DOB**  


**Ticket Date** 5/29/2012  
**Ticket Number** 13758  
**Ticket Type** Buy  
 4:00PM

**Address**  
 RICHMOND AVE  
**City** HOUSTON  
**State** TX  
**Zip** 77063  
**Phone**  


**Creditor**  
 Houston Jewelry  
 9521 Westheimer  
 A  
 Houston, Texas 77063  
 Phone: 713-784-1000  
 Fax: 713-781-6684  
 Clerk: JEFF

<b>ID 2</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Eye Color</b>	<b>Hair Color</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Weight</b>
	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	5'9"	N/A

Item Listing 						
Serial Number	Make	Model	Status	Description	Amount (\$)	
58.7GR			Buy	NECKLACE (INCLUDES NECKLACE WITH PENDANT OR WATCH) - HEAVY HERRINGBONE; 18" 2.5MM ROPE Item Quantity:2 Item Color:14KY	\$1,175.00	

[Create Action Request Form](#)
[Create Person Of Interest](#)
[Add/View Notes](#)
[Edit](#)
[Print](#)
[Close](#)

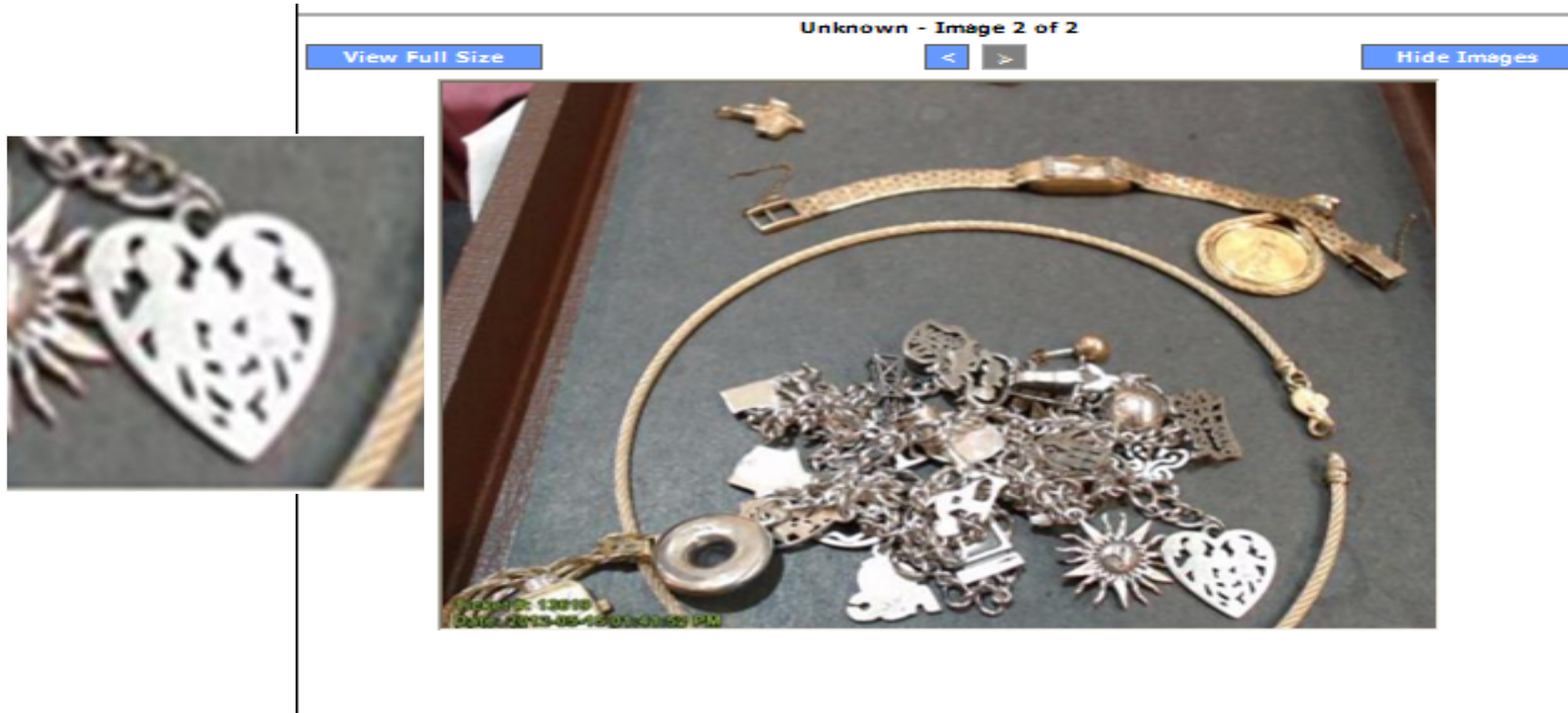
(Hold/Extension/Confiscation/Release) (0 Notes)

Customer - Image 1 of 1 (Thumbprint)



Allows an electronic thumb print

Also allows attaching digital photos necessary to identify stolen property



# Proposed Changes to City Ordinance

- ✦ A hold period for records. Change **from** 2 years **to** 3 years to match state law.
- ✦ Time period to report to HPD. Change **from** no mention in ordinance **to** daily reporting.
- ✦ Electronic reporting. Change **from** reporting by mail **to** electronic reporting.

# Proposed Changes to City Ordinance

- ✦ Expand definition of crafted precious metals. Change **from** Gold, Silver, or Platinum **to** match state law and add five other precious metals.
- ✦ Thumb print. Change **from** no mention in ordinance **to** a clear thumb print of the seller.
- ✦ Digital photograph of the jewelry. Change **from** no mention in ordinance **to** a clear digital image of the Jewelry.

# Proposed Changes to City Ordinance

- ✦ Digital photograph of seller. Change **from** no mention in ordinance **to** a clear digital image of the seller.
- ✦ Temporary dealer requirements. Change **from** no specific mention in ordinance **to** out of town dealers now held at same standard of regular dealer.

# Proposed Changes to City Ordinance

- ✦ License numbers on advertisements. Change **from** no mention in ordinance **to** ... must provide all city and state license numbers on advertisements.
- ✦ Move Crafted Precious Metals Section. Move **from** Article II **to** it's own section in Article IV.
- ✦ Add “**purchase**” to sections in definition, penalty, and license.



# Dealer Committee Members

- Harold Reese, Owner  
Harold Reese Jewelry
- Dominic Rodriguez, Owner  
Gold Rush
- Jose Rodriguez  
The Goldmine Gold, Silver, and Jewelry Buyers
- Sam Rodriguez  
Houston Gold Merchants
- H.R. "Bob" Sandler, Owner  
Designer Jewels inc
- Brad Schweiss, Owner  
Houston Gold Exchange
- Steven Silver, Owner  
Jewelry Appraisal Services
- Rex Solomon, President  
Houston Jewelry
- Connie Stagner, Owner  
Billy Stagner, Owner  
Acori Diamonds and Design
- Juan Tavarez, Owner  
GSS (Gold Simple Secure)

# Dealer Committee Members

- David Baker, President Global Stone and Metal
  - Rick Crumly, Owner ITB
  - Amelia Culwell, Owner Gold & Silver Buyers
  - Scott Dekilder, Owner/manager Alpha Gold Services
  - Aron Frank, Owner Amco Jewelry Co, inc
  - Veronica Guajardo Aztec Gold & Silver Buyers
  - Amber Gustafsa, Owner Ambersdesigns.com
  - David Harleston Royal Coin
  - Hal Martin, Owner Hal Martin's
  - Bruce A. Pollak, Owner Houston Estate Jewelry Liquidators
- January 22, 2013

# Questions

- Comments or Recommendations???