APD NEWS

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Auto Thieves and Burglars Targeting Vehicles

APD Auto Theft Detectives have been working on several cases where vehicles have been stolen from parking areas along or near the 1700 block of West Cesar Chavez Street. The owners of the stolen vehicles are hiding their keys in what they believe to be a secure location.

The City of Austin has also had an increase of burglary of vehicles where thieves target shopping malls, apartment complexes, day care centers, and large parking facilities.

APD reminds you to protect your vehicles from auto theft and burglary by taking precautions that will make your vehicle less of a target:

- Take your keys – Nearly 20% of all stolen vehicles had the keys in them.
- Lock Your Car – Approximately half of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked.
- Park in well-lit areas – Over half of all vehicle theft occurs at night.
- Never Leave Your Engine Running – It is against the law in Texas to leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle engine running. If convicted, you can be fined up to $200.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view –don't make your car a more desirable target and attract thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.
- Install protection devices – Ignition kill switch, fuel kill switch, visible steering wheel lock, alarms and vehicle tracking.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project programs are funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority to reduce auto and burglary theft in the State of Texas.

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