

Town Clerks:

I am reaching out to the 6 northeast townships asking for help in getting the word out to residents about a rash of thefts from vehicles. Over the last two weeks or so we have had a large number of incidents reported to us where suspects have entered unlocked vehicles parked in front of or in the driveway of a residence. The suspects appear to be looking for small electronic items and cash. GPS units seem to be very popular with the thieves. Bristol and Burke seem to be getting hit the hardest but these suspects could very easily move to one of the other townships located in our area. The suspects seem to be targeting rural neighborhoods between the hours of 11pm and 6am. I am attaching a copy of a press release just sent out by our department to the media. Please feel free to use this one or put together one of your own. I am also including some additional safety tips below that could be shared as well.

- Always lock your car doors even if your vehicle is parked in the driveway. (Thieves will go from car to car checking doors and focus on those left unlocked)
- Don't leave electronic or valuable items in plain view. (These are the type of items targeted by thieves and often make your vehicle more appealing. Place these items in an enclosed compartment or under a seat)
- Park near a well lit area or use motion sensors to go on when someone approaches. (Thieves often look for areas of darkness to cover them. Motion sensors will often scare off a would be thief as they do not want to draw attention to what they are doing)
- Pay attention to suspicious activity and don't hesitate to call 911 or 255-2349 to make a request that a deputy check the area. (A physical description of the subject and license plate number are very useful for law enforcement to properly identify who they are looking for)
- Copy any serial numbers or photograph electronic and valuable items so they can be more easily identified if they are stolen. Serial numbers can be entered into a national database for law enforcement to check for stolen items.

We will have several deputies going around some of the neighborhoods hit recently with theft from vehicles to do a flyer drop. This will be done to ask for any help in identifying any potential suspects as well as to remind citizens about securing any vehicles and property. I am sending a copy of the flyer to each town clerk in case you get asked any questions.

Deputy John Nelson



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THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

There has been a string of thefts from unlocked vehicles over past week in your township. These thefts have been occurring late at night or early in the morning. We are looking for any **information about suspicious persons or vehicles in your neighborhood you may have observed.** If you have any information please call the Northeast Precinct at 608-266-3456.

If you **observe suspicious persons or vehicles in your neighborhood** please call the Dane County Communication Center at (608) 255-2345. We will be having stepped up enforcement in the area so any "in progress" information about suspicious persons or vehicles will assist in catching the individuals responsible.

We also ask that you lock vehicles and keep valuables out of sight. Don't be an easy target.