



Old Tappan Police Department

July 2022

Over the past two weeks, the Police Department has received calls from residents reporting that their vehicles either have been stolen or burglarized during the overnight/daylight hours. This has been and is still going on throughout all of New Jersey and parts of New York. Please note that these stolen vehicles all had key fobs left inside of them, and were left unlocked. We urge you to make sure you remove any key fobs and all valuable/personal items, and ensure your vehicles are locked when left parked outside your homes. It is very important to always ensure all doors are closed and locked even when garaged and make sure to take your key fob inside your home no matter where or for how long you're parked.

Due to Bail Reform, individuals have become bold and brazen and are increasingly entering open/closed garages to steal vehicles. Back in March, State Officials announced to put through "a number of strong proactive measures to curb auto thefts, as part of a larger strategy to reduce violent crime and protect the people of New Jersey." It's July and we are still waiting. Feel free to contact your local legislator, Senator Holly Schepisi, and request that these protective measures get put through as soon as possible. She can be reached by email senschepisi@njleg.org or by phone 201-666-0881.

Unfortunately, even after the arrests of numerous individuals involved in this type of crime, vehicles continue to get stolen and burglarized. Many of the local car thefts have occurred during the late evening/early morning hours. To assist residents, the Police Department would like to offer the following tips to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime:

1. If you have a garage, use it.
2. If your vehicle has to be parked outside, make sure all doors are locked, windows are closed, and all valuables removed. Locking your car doors is probably the easiest step in preventing a car theft/burglary. Please note that criminals also have used garage door openers found inside open vehicles to access garage areas and steal/burglarize vehicles.
3. Park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
4. Keys of any type should never be left inside your vehicle. If criminals have access to your keys, they can, potentially, access your home.

Remember that thieves are opportunistic. If your vehicle is unlocked with the keys inside, it will likely be stolen or, at the very least, burglarized. Stolen vehicles have been involved in police pursuits, which place officers in danger. These vehicles also have been used in the commission of serious crimes, which places every citizen in danger.

What To Do If You See A Car Break-in In Progress:

1. Immediately call 9-1-1 or the Old Tappan Police Department directly, at (201) 664-1221, to report the incident.
2. When talking to the Dispatcher, try to give as much information as possible, specifically:
 - ◊ LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT
 - ◊ DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT/VEHICLE
 - ◊ DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Over the years, observant residents have helped the Police Department solve many different types of crimes. This coordinated effort between the police department and community, undoubtedly, has helped to make our Community safer.

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