



3 0307 00018 4138

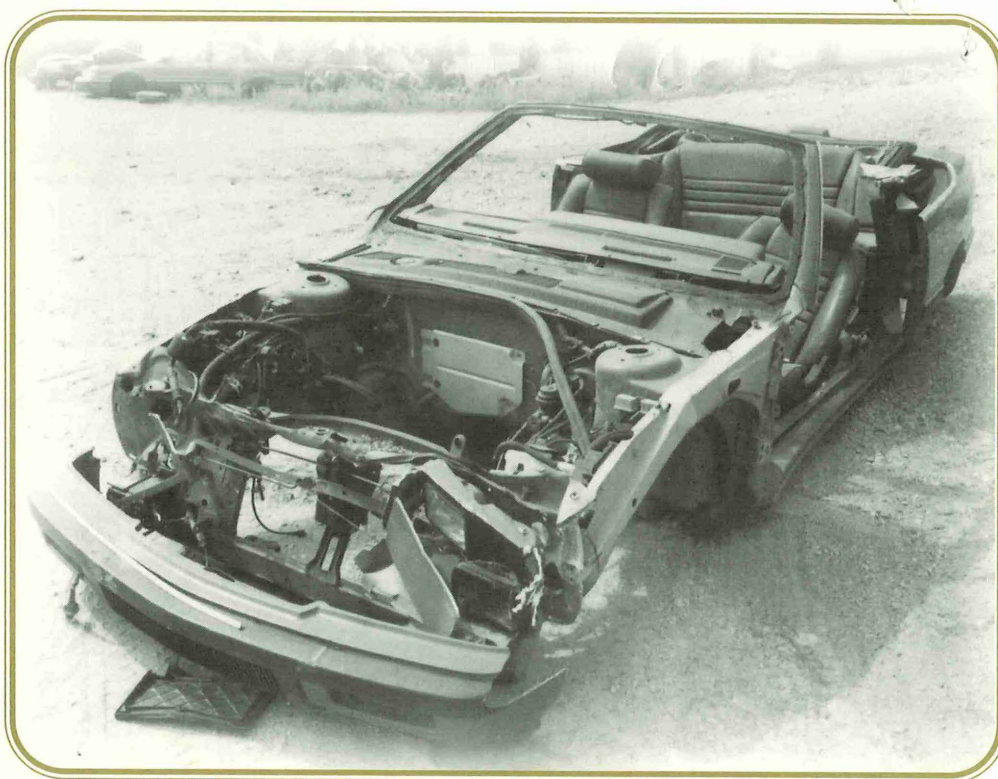
00 046



# MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM



## 1999 ANNUAL REPORT



**To the Governor and Legislature**

**State of Minnesota**

HV6661  
.M6  
M55  
1999  
c.2





# Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Board

1110 Centre Pointe Curve, Suite 405  
Mendota Heights, Minnesota 55120  
Phone: 651/405-6155 Fax: 651.405.6156

## Board of Directors

### Bob Johnson

Chair

Insurance Federation  
of Minnesota

### Bob Larson

Vice-Chair

Duluth Police  
Department  
(Retired)

### Tom Harbinson

Scott County  
Attorney

### Tracie Mortenson

3M  
Company

### James Schutjer

Minnesota Auto Dealers  
Association

## Executive Director

### Dennis Roske

Auto Theft  
Prevention Board

January 15, 2000

Honorable Jesse Ventura, Governor  
Members of the State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
St. Paul, MN. 55101

Dear Governor Ventura and Members of the State Legislature,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Board, I am please to present to you the annual report of our activities and expenditures the past year as required by Minnesota Statute 168A.40 Sub. 2 (4iii).

While all major crimes were on the decrease in Minnesota, the auto theft rate rose 23.5 % from 1994 to 1996. This dramatic increase in auto thefts assisted the Legislature in creating the Auto Theft Prevention Board. Since the inception of the Auto Theft Prevention Board on January 1, 1997, the auto theft rate in Minnesota has dropped 14.1 percent.

The Auto Theft Prevention Board of Directors have met during the past year to continue working on vehicle theft prevention strategies and reviewing grant proposals submitted by police agencies, prosecuting attorneys and citizen groups concerned with the auto theft problem in Minnesota. For 1999, the Board of Directors approved 28 of the grant proposals aimed at the investigation, arrest and prosecution of auto thieves, and to educate Minnesota citizens on how to protect themselves from having their car stolen.

I am proud of the Board's efforts to date and look forward to a successful new millennium year 2000 with the Auto Theft Prevention program.

Sincerely,

Bob Johnson, Chair  
Auto Theft Prevention Board

**THE MISSION OF  
MINNESOTA'S AUTO THEFT  
PREVENTION BOARD IS:**

*To reduce motor vehicle theft and its consequences  
in the State of Minnesota by funding programs  
which aid in the :*

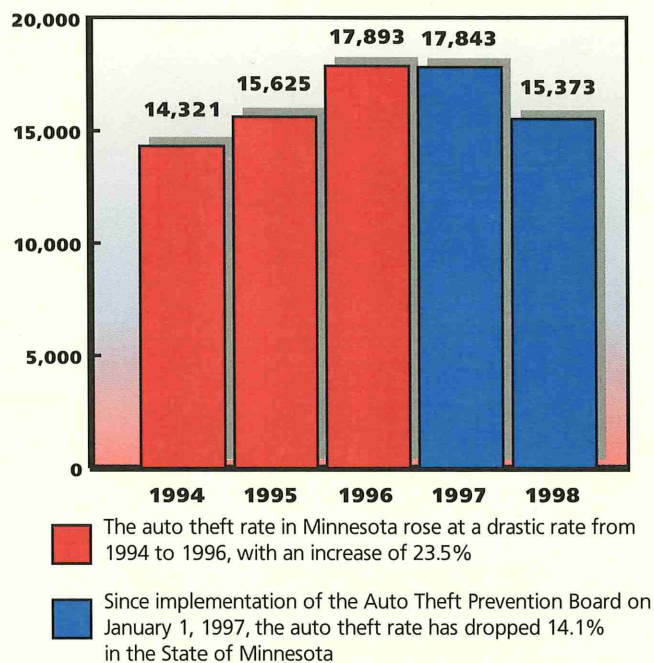
- IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL ISSUES
- EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
- INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION



## THE MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PROBLEM

Most citizens don't realize the number of vehicle thefts that take place in Minnesota on a yearly basis, or the economic impact that auto theft has on our community. The auto theft rate for Minnesota in 1996 reached an all time high with 17,893 vehicles stolen with a value of \$66,173,245.00. This high theft rate also makes for higher insurance premium costs for the consumer. Auto theft crimes are not just alleged victimless property crimes, but have turned into crimes of violence, such as car jacking, using stolen vehicles in armed robberies, and drive-by shootings by gang members.

**Minnesota's Auto Theft Statistics\***



### 1998 Auto Thefts in Various Towns and Counties in Minnesota

Hennepin County	6,414	Ramsey County	2,923
Minneapolis	4,486	St. Paul	2,350
Bloomington	328	Roseville	143
Anoka County	851	Dakota County	700
Coon Rapids	181	Burnsville	139
Fridley	149	W. St. Paul	125
St. Louis County	434	Washington County	331
Duluth	247	Sheriff's Dept.	95
Rochester	135	St. Cloud	166

\* Most current available statistics as reported by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension 1998 Crime Information Report

## EXPERIENCE FROM OTHER STATE'S AUTO THEFT PROGRAMS

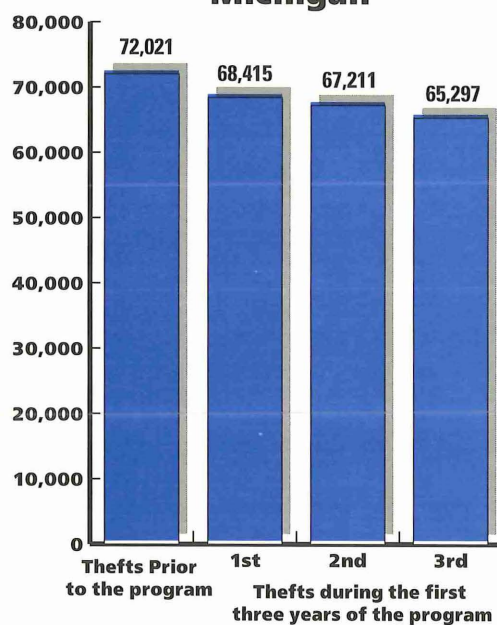
Other states have been able to show a success with their auto theft prevention grant funded programs in their initial years of operation.

These other states that have implemented a similar auto theft prevention plan have seen their auto theft rates go down as a result of these prevention programs.

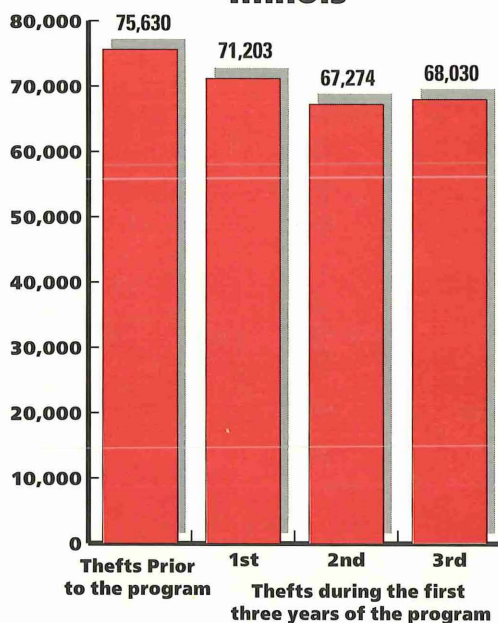
### Three State's Auto Theft Rates\*

\* Source: Insurance Information Institute

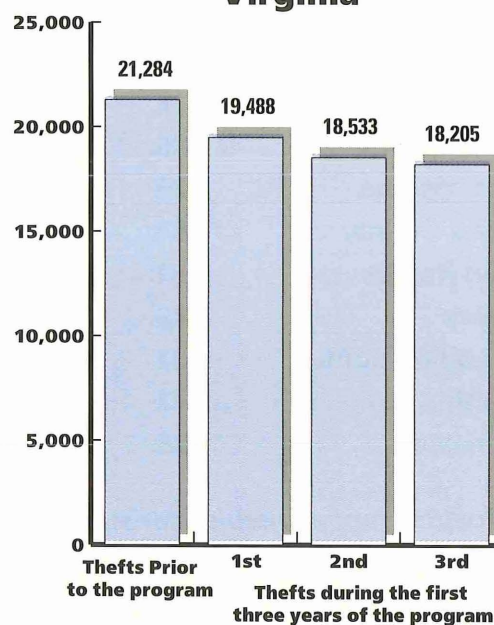
#### Michigan



#### Illinois



#### Virginia



## **THE RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM**

During the 1996 Legislative Session, the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program was enacted under Minnesota Statutes, Section 168A.40, creating the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Board. The Board has been given the statutory duties and responsibilities as follows:

1. Develop and sponsor the implementation of state wide plans, programs, and strategies to combat auto theft in Minnesota.
2. Coordinate the development and planning, relating to inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation with respect to auto theft enforcement.
3. Develop a plan of operation.
4. Set up a special revenue account within the State Treasury for the auto theft prevention purposes.
5. Distribute money from the auto theft prevention special revenue account for auto theft prevention activities.

## **HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS**

The Statute established an auto theft prevention account to be used only for the Automobile Theft Prevention Program. From this account, the Board of Directors makes money available through eligible grant applicants for programs that address the problem of auto theft in the State of Minnesota.

The funds for this account comes from a surcharge that is to be collected from automobile insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the State of Minnesota. This amount is collected at the rate of 50 cents per vehicle for every six months of coverage.

## **HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT**

Annually, the Board of Directors publishes notice of grant money availability to prospective applicants. The grant time period follows the state fiscal year which is July 1st to June 30th. Grant announcements are made in the State Register, published by the State of Minnesota. Grant applications may be submitted by state or local law enforcement agencies, local prosecutors, judicial agencies, neighborhood or community organizations. These applications may be submitted for the following types of projects related to auto theft prevention and reduction:

1. Training (criminal justice, citizen, and business, etc.)
2. Public education (public meetings, literature, public service announcements, neighborhood and business watch promotions, etc.)

3. Programs designed to improve or expand the resources of existing auto theft prevention, investigation, apprehension, or prosecution activities.
4. Multi-jurisdictional projects combining the resources of different agencies in the task force approach to combat auto theft.
5. Long term specialized training to further develop the expertise of auto theft investigators or prosecutors.

---

**Top 10 Stolen Autos  
in Minnesota\***

---

- 1 1991 Chevrolet Pickup 4x4**
- 2 1989 Ford Pickup F150 4x4**
- 3 1991 Pontiac Grand Am**
- 4 1992 Chevrolet T10 4x4**
- 5 1988 Chevrolet Caprice**
- 6 1988 Chevrolet Corsica**
- 7 1988 Chevrolet Celebrity**
- 8 1988 Chevrolet Blazer 4x4**
- 9 1991 Isuzu Stylus S**
- 10 1994 Chevrolet Cavalier**

\* Source: CCC Information Services, Inc., [www.cccis.com](http://www.cccis.com)



RECEIVED

OCT 09 2000

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

## **MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM**

### **CURRENT GRANT ANALYSIS**

The following are the grantees that were awarded a grant from the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program for the 1998-99 fiscal year. The list includes the grantee's name, amount of grant, and a brief synopsis of what the grantee will be doing with the grant funds in their attempt at the reduction of auto thefts in Minnesota.

**1. Anoka Sheriff's Department** **\$ 99,658.00**

Funds to be used to continue the Anoka County Auto Theft Task Force Unit established from the 1997-99 grant funding. Grant monies will be used for auto theft training for law enforcement personnel, public awareness campaigns and working special operations.

**2. Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota** **\$ 5,497.80**

Will host and provide auto theft investigation training for police officers in an out-state location and a metro location. Will host two auto theft training seminars for police, insurance representatives and others concerned with auto theft. Produce an auto theft investigator's manual for police officers.

**3. Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota** **\$ 235,000.00**

Provides for newspaper ads, brochures, posters, billboard advertisement, and public service announcements on radio and television throughout the state to increase public understanding of the auto theft problem and economic impact on the citizens of Minnesota. Produce an auto theft educational video to be distributed to the Minnesota school systems.

**4. Beltrami County Sheriff's Department** **\$ 69,520.00**

Specialized training for a vehicle theft investigator, set up an On-Guard tracking system for a bait car, training of officers and enroll citizens in the Watch Your Car Program.

**5. Bloomington Police Department** **\$ 63,000.00**

Infiltrate auto theft rings through undercover operations. Identify chop shop operations and maintain a bait car program. Sent two officers to the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) training seminar in Dearborn, Michigan.

**6. Burnsville Police Department** **\$ 65,805.00**

Specialized training of police officers through the IAATI. Process all recovered stolen vehicles for fingerprints. Continue the bait vehicle program and purchase equipment for the bait car.

**7. Cass Lake Police Department****\$ 44,892.00**

Continue a public awareness/prevention auto theft program. Set up a bait car program. Hold special auto theft training programs for police officers.

**8. Dakota County Attorney****\$ 95,746.00**

Continued funding of a full time special assistant county prosecutor position and one secretarial person. These two positions will dedicate their time solely to the prosecution of auto theft cases in Dakota, Scott, and Carver Counties.

**9. Duluth Police Department****\$ 95,729.00**

Funding for one full-time auto theft investigator/project coordinator. Establishing a surveillance project in high theft areas. Conduct public awareness events.

**10. Eagan Police Department****\$ 53,101.00**

Produce public radio, newspaper and television ads regarding how to prevent auto theft. Leasing of a bait vehicle, On Guard tracking system, equipment and overtime cost for patrol officers. Training of police officers in auto theft.

**11. Eden Prairie Police Department****\$ 28,000.00**

Leasing of a bait vehicle, and the purchase of audio and video equipment for the bait car. Overtime for patrol officers and investigators. Increase awareness and training of officers in the identification of stolen vehicles at the IAATI seminar in Dearborn, MI.

**12. Hennepin County Attorney****\$ 222,780.00**

Continue the Hennepin County Auto Theft Prosecution Unit. Funds used for salaries for two county attorneys and one part-time paralegal for the prosecution of auto theft related cases.

**13. Hennepin County Sheriff's Department****\$ 69,944.00**

Continuation of the investigation of an organized crime group involving the theft of Harley Davidson motorcycles, chopping them up for the parts. Implementing a bait motorcycle.

**14. Inver Grove Heights Police Department****\$ 24,000.00**

Education to citizens and businesses on auto theft. The setting up of task force surveillance operations.

**15. Mahnomen County Sheriff's Department**

**\$ 10,000.00**

Continuation of the On Guard tracking device to be used in a bait car decoy operation. Extra patrolling and surveillance of high auto theft areas. Educate citizens on auto theft through public forums.

**16. Minneapolis Police Department**

**\$ 13,000.00**

A continuation of the public education program utilizing billboards, MTC bus advertising space and other public service announcements.

**17. Minneapolis Police Department**

**\$ 108,800.00**

The continuation of leasing and maintenance of bait vehicles with tracking devices built into them. Overtime funds for detailed police officer, investigators and special investigations.

**18. Minneapolis Police Department - Crime Prevention Unit**

**\$ 56,340.00**

Continued work with the Juvenile Justice Program focusing on auto theft. Create and air six public service announcements on KARE 11. Conduct educational programs at the auto show and at 20 Minneapolis festivals throughout the city.

**19. Minnesota Department of Public Safety**

**\$ 4,100.00**

The training of members of the Department of Public Safety Driver and Vehicle Services Division in the area of identifying stolen vehicles during their inspections of repairable vehicles.

**20. Plymouth Police Department**

**\$ 25,550.00**

Develop a public awareness program and participate in the Watch Your Car Program. Set up a bait car program in high theft areas of the city. Specialized training for police officers.

**21. Ramsey County Attorney**

**\$ 96,639.00**

The continuation of the County Attorney's vertical prosecutions of auto thieves and develop a program to enhance investigators with auto theft cases.

**22. Rice County Sheriff's Department**

**\$ 27,300.00**

The continuation of a bait car program, organize neighborhood watch groups, set up seminars for a public awareness program and develop a tip line.

**23. Rochester Police Department**

**\$ 11,400.00**

Lease bait vehicle and install a GPS tracking system. Produce a citizen awareness brochure to be handed out at businesses, schools and service organizations.

**24. St. Louis Park Police Department** **\$ 47,320.00**

The continuation of a bait car program, identifying suspect information and educating citizens on preventing auto theft.

**25. St. Paul Police Department Juvenile Unit** **\$ 48,090.00**

The continuation of restorative justice program for auto theft offenders. Develop profile for early intervention for those likely to commit auto theft crimes.

**26. St. Paul Police Department Special Investigations Unit** **\$ 27,960.00**

To establish ten decoy operations utilizing a bait motorcycle equipped with a GPS tracking device. Perform inspections of Harley Davidson motorcycles.

**27. Shakopee Police Department** **\$ 16,000.00**

The continuation of a bait car program in high theft areas. Partnership with civic groups to VIN etch 500 cars with the vehicle identification number on the windows.

**28. South St. Paul Police Department** **\$ 8,000.00**

Proactive police patrols and surveillance of high theft areas. The continuation of a bait car program with GPS tracking system.

**Total amount of grants awarded: \$1,764,709.80**

**The administrative cost to run the program for calendar year 1999 was \$146,386.00. The cost of printing the 1999 Annual Report was \$1,195.00.**

## **MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Robert Johnson, Chair, Insurance Federation of Minnesota**

Mr. Johnson is the Executive Vice President of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota. He has represented the Federation's members before the Minnesota Legislature and numerous state agencies for 21 years. He is the chairperson for the Minn. Department of Commerce Insurance Advisory Committee and the Minn. Business Network.

### **Robert Larson, Vice Chair, Duluth Police Department**

Mr. Larson retired as a Deputy Chief with the Duluth Police Department after 29 years of service. Over the last eight years as Deputy Chief, he was in charge of the uniform division, drug and gang task force and the special investigations unit. During his career, Mr. Larson had ten years of detective experience in auto theft-related crimes.

### **Tom Harbinson, Scott County Attorney**

Mr. Harbinson has been with the Scott County Attorney's office for 13 years. For the past five years he has been elected Scott County Attorney. During this time he has been involved with the serious prosecution of auto thieves. Mr. Harbinson has also served on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

### **Tracie Mortenson, 3M Company**

Ms. Mortenson is an Account Representative with the 3M Company in the Security Market Center. Mortenson has been with the 3M Company for over 19 years. She has traveled throughout the world instructing police officers in motor vehicle component part label identification.

### **Jim Schutjer, Minnesota Dealers Association**

Mr. Schutjer is the General Council for the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association. The Association is comprised of 492 new car and truck dealers throughout the State. He provides legal, education and government relations for the dealers. Mr. Schutjer has been involved in many auto theft-related activities over the past 20 years.

### **Dennis Roske, Executive Director**

Sergeant Roske is a 29 year veteran with the Minnesota State Patrol. Sgt. Roske has been assigned to the Investigative Services Auto Theft Unit for the past 16 years. He is also the president of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, which has 3,300 members in 44 countries worldwide. Sgt. Roske directs the daily operations of the Auto Theft Prevention Board Office.





One of the billboards put up over the summer months to advertise the reward tip line sponsored by the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota.