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STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM



1997 ANNUAL REPORT

Arne H. Carlson, Governor

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1997

Donald D. Davis, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Dennis Roske, Chairman
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***

**MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM
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MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN. 55118
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MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Minnesota State Patrol

VICE-CHAIR

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RICHARD ARNEY

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Duluth Police Department

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3M Company

CIS NELSON

Alamo Rent-a-Car

January 12, 1998

The Honorable Arne H. Carlson, Governor
Members of the State Legislature
State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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Dear Governor Carlson and Members of the State Legislature,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you the second annual report of the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program.

During the past year the media has reported on car jackings, the rise in auto thefts, and increasing insurance rates. Controlling a rising crime rate is important for all Minnesota citizens. Auto theft is the only major crime area that has continued to go up.

States such as, Illinois, Michigan, and Texas, have seen their auto theft rate dramatically reduced due to the efforts of their auto theft prevention programs. In addition, these states have experienced reductions in their comprehensive insurance rates as a result of funding for increased auto theft enforcement, prosecution, and educational programs. Minnesota's newly enacted Auto Theft Prevention Program hopes to emulate their success.

The seven member Auto Theft Prevention Board of Directors has met monthly during the past year working on the auto theft grant proposals that were submitted. The Board approved 28 of those grant proposals.

I hope the information contained in this report will help you make intelligent informed decisions about the continued auto theft prevention initiatives. The Board looks forward to your continued support of the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program.

Sincerely,

Denny Roske, Chair
Auto Theft Prevention Board

THE MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Roske, Chairman, Minnesota State Patrol

Sergeant Roske is a 26 year veteran with the Minnesota State Patrol assigned to Investigative Services, Auto Theft Unit, for the past 12 years. He is also the second Vice President for the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI).

Robert Johnson, Vice Chair, Insurance Federation of Minnesota

Mr. Johnson is the Executive Vice President of the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, serving as the Attorney for the Insurance Federation for past 20 years. He also Chairs the Minnesota Department of Commerce insurance Advisory Committee.

Richard Arney, Washington County Attorney

Mr. Arney has been the Washington County Attorney for the past 11 years. Prior to that he was in private practice and worked as the Juvenile Public Defender.

John Ballis, St. Paul Police Department

Sergeant Ballis has been with the St. Paul Police Department for 30 years and assigned to the Auto Theft Unit for the past 6 years. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Anti-Vehicle Crime Association.

Tracie Mortenson, 3M Companies

Mrs. Mortenson is a Sales Representative with the 3M Company, Verification Security Labels Division. She has been with the 3M Company for over 17 years. She has trained over 700 police officers world-wide in the vehicle component part identification labeling system.

Cis Nelson, National Car Rental

Mrs. Nelson has been in the rental car industry for over 20 years. She is a Service Manager for National Car Rental and also an active member of the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota's Board of Directors.

Bob Larson, Duluth Police Department

Deputy Chief Larson is a 27 year veteran with the Duluth Police Department. He has 10 years of detective experience in the areas of auto theft investigation and fraud.

Most citizens don't realize the number of vehicle thefts that occur in the State of Minnesota on a yearly basis and the financial loss due to the thefts. In 1996 that dollar amount totaled \$ 56,314,383.00 worth of stolen vehicles in Minnesota which resulted in higher insurance premium costs for the consumer. Auto theft has turned from the alleged victimless property crime into crimes of violence such as car-jacking. While all other major felony crimes have decreased in Minnesota, vehicle theft continues to rise. Minnesota residents pay in many ways for auto theft crimes that are committed.

MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT STATISTICS

1994 - - - - 14,321

1995 - - - - 15,625

1996 - - - - 17,893

From 1994 to 1996 there was a **23.5%** increase in the number of vehicles stolen in the State of Minnesota !

Hennepin County	7,674	Ramsey County	3,278
Minneapolis	5,650	St. Paul	2,636
Bloomington	396	Maplewood	168
Brooklyn Park	230	Roseville	130
Anoka County	950	Dakota County	849
Coon Rapids	173	Burnsville	227
Fridley	145	Eagan	190
St. Louis County	583	Washington Co.	329
Duluth	398	Sheriff's Dept.	96
Rochester	145	St. Cloud	206

The Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program enacted under State Statute 168A.40, created the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Board of Directors. 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.
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 auto theft prevention purposes.
5. Distribute money from the auto theft prevention special revenue account for auto theft prevention activities.

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT:

The statute established the auto theft prevention account to be used only for the automobile theft prevention program. From this account, the Board of Directors will make grants to eligible applicants for programs that address the problem of auto theft in the State of Minnesota.

The funds for this account will come from a surcharge that is to be collected from insurance carriers that provide comprehensive insurance coverage issued in the State. This amount is collected at the rate of \$ 1.00 per year per vehicle insured.

GRANT AVAILABILITY:

Annually the Board will publish notice of grant money availability to prospective applicants. Applications may be submitted for the following types of projects related to auto theft prevention and reduction.

1. Training (criminal justice, citizens, 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 task force approach to combat auto theft.
5. Long term specialized training to further develop the expertise of auto theft investigators or prosecutors.

MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM CURRENT GRANT ANALYSIS

The following is the list of grantees that received grant funds from the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program in the 1997-98 fiscal year. This is the first year that money has gone out to participants in the Auto Theft Prevention Grant Program. The participants are in the process of setting up their proposals. This list includes the grantee, dollar amount of the awarded grant, and a brief synopsis of what the grantee will be doing with the money in their attempt at the reduction of auto theft in Minnesota.

- #1. Anoka Co. Sheriff's Dept. - \$ 115,528**
Creates a county wide auto theft task force that will work in a proactive capacity with undercover operations and training.
- #2. Bloomington Police Dept. - \$ 61,200**
Set up a bait vehicle with a GPS tracking system for undercover theft in progress deterrent. Auto theft crime analysis, and the surveillance of suspected auto thieves.
- #3. St. Paul Police Dept. - \$ 23,000**
Set up an undercover bait motorcycle to track where the stolen cycles are going to. This will involve the surveillance of areas motorcycle are being stolen from.
- #4. St. Paul Police Dept. - \$ 40,792**
To do proactive enforcement on chop shops and auto thieves changing vehicle identification numbers.
- #5. Hennepin. Co. Attorney - \$ 110,000**
Hire a full time attorney to work vertical prosecution with auto thieves, and a juvenile prosecutor to also work with juveniles charged with vehicle theft.
- #6. Ramsey Co. Attorney - \$ 57,544**
Hire a full time attorney to do vertical prosecution with adult and juvenile auto thieves. This attorney will also do the charging in vehicle theft cases.
- #7. Minneapolis Police Dept. - \$ 49,403**
SAFE unit will set up a CAT program, print material for neighborhood watches, and set up auto theft prevention seminars.
- #8. St. Louis Park Police Dept. - \$ 40,500**
Set up surveillance operations of known auto theft suspects and high theft rate areas. To do additional proactive investigations on auto theft.

- #9. **Hennepin. Co. Sheriff's Dept. -** **\$ 14,700**
Will set up a bait vehicle to track stolen motorcycles to the chop shop where they are being dismantled.
- #10. **Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota -** **\$ 16,322**
To provide auto theft training to police officers on a semi annual basis. This training will consist of a spring and fall two day training session. One session will be in the metro area, and the other session in rural Minnesota.
- #11. **Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota -** **\$ 123,025.95**
To set up an advertising campaign for vehicle theft through the television media, radio, newspapers, community action groups, police and sheriff's departments and advertise a Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) reward tip line that is in operation.
- #12. **Department of Public Safety -** **\$ 7,900**
Purchase bar code readers for the motor vehicle examiners to determine if some vehicle identification number plates and federal safety stickers are counterfeit, and set up a computer on line hook up with the National Insurance Crime Bureau in Chicago.
- #13. **South St. Paul Police Dept. -** **\$ 17,650**
Provide public education on auto theft, evidence collection training, meet with citizen and business groups, security survey to car dealerships.
- #14. **Minneapolis Police Dept. -** **\$ 70,800**
Set up bait vehicles in high theft areas to identify chop shops and other organized auto theft rings. Set up proactive auto theft task force that will Officers devote full time to the investigation of auto case .
- #15. **Dakota Co. Attorney -** **\$ 81,220**
Hire a full time attorney to do vertical prosecution of auto theft cases in Dakota, Scott, and Carver Counties.
- #16. **Brooklyn Center Police Dept. -** **\$ 44,121**
Increase public awareness on auto theft through cable TV and at shopping malls, conduct surveillance in high auto theft areas.
- #17. **Duluth Police Dept. -** **\$ 113,100**
Gather intelligence information on vehicle thefts and surveillance of high theft areas, public education seminars, decoy operations set up, and put together a task force. This task force will concentrate efforts on high vehicle theft areas.
- #18. **Minn. State Patrol -** **\$ 7,800**
Purchase bar code reader devices to examine vehicle identification numbers on vehicles for counterfeit vehicle identification number plates and Federal safety stickers by checking vehicle at cars lot and at auto auctions.

- #19. **Foung Heu Productions -** **\$ 38,325**
Produce a video on auto theft prevention in the Hmong language for the Hmong community.

- #20. **Mpls. Police Dept. -** **\$26,000**
Set up an undercover store front operation to identify auto thieves.

- #21. **Bloomington Police Dept. -** **\$19,600**
Lease bait vehicle for undercover operation.

- #22. **Roseville Police Dept. -** **\$21,065**
Hold auto theft awareness meetings, increase CAT program, set up decoy and surveillance operations, and to do crime analysis on auto theft.

- #23. **Dept. Of Public Safety/Inspection. -** **\$ 6,600**
Purchase additional bar code readers for detecting counterfeit identification numbers on stolen vehicles.

- #24. **St. Paul Police Dept. -** **\$25,000**
Set-up juvenile auto theft program, develop a restorative justice conference program, develop training video for juveniles involved with auto theft crimes.

- #25. **Dept. of Public Safety/State Patrol -** **\$1,970**
Purchase cctv video equipment to record vehicle identification numbers that cannot be accessed without the disassembly of a vehicle for evidence. Train 30 State Troopers in identifying stolen semi trucks and trailers.

- #26. **Rice County Sheriffs Dept. -** **\$52,950**
Will conduct public awareness seminars, identify repeat auto theft offenders, and set up decoy operations chop shop operations.

- #27. **Shakopee Police Department -** **\$10,150**
Set up a bait car for a multijurisdictional effort to catch auto thefts in progress. Produce cable access program on vehicle theft.

- #28. **AVCAM -** **\$4,849.70**
To fund a Anti Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota seminar on vehicle theft for police officers and members of the insurance industry. To provide auto theft training to police officers in the St. Paul area.

The total amount of grants awarded was \$ 1,201,115.65 for the fight against auto theft crimes in Minnesota in 1997. This money was only recently granted out to the participating agencies. As of this date, 20 grant request applications have been received for fiscal year 1998-99. The Auto Theft Prevention Program total administrative budget was \$ 129,989. Auto theft in Minnesota continues to be the number one rising crime in Minnesota.

1996

TOP 10 STOLEN

AUTOS IN MINNESOTA

1. Oldsmobile Cutlass
2. Toyota Camry
3. Honda Accord
4. Chevy S-10 Blazer 4X4
5. Buick Century
6. Buick LeSabre
7. Oldsmobile Delta 88
8. Chevy 4X4 pick up
9. Chevrolet Celebrity
10. Cadillac Deville

If there are any questions regarding the Minnesota Auto Theft Prevention Program, please contact the Board of Directors Chairperson, Denny Roske at (612) 405-6153 or Fax (612) 405-6156.