

990026

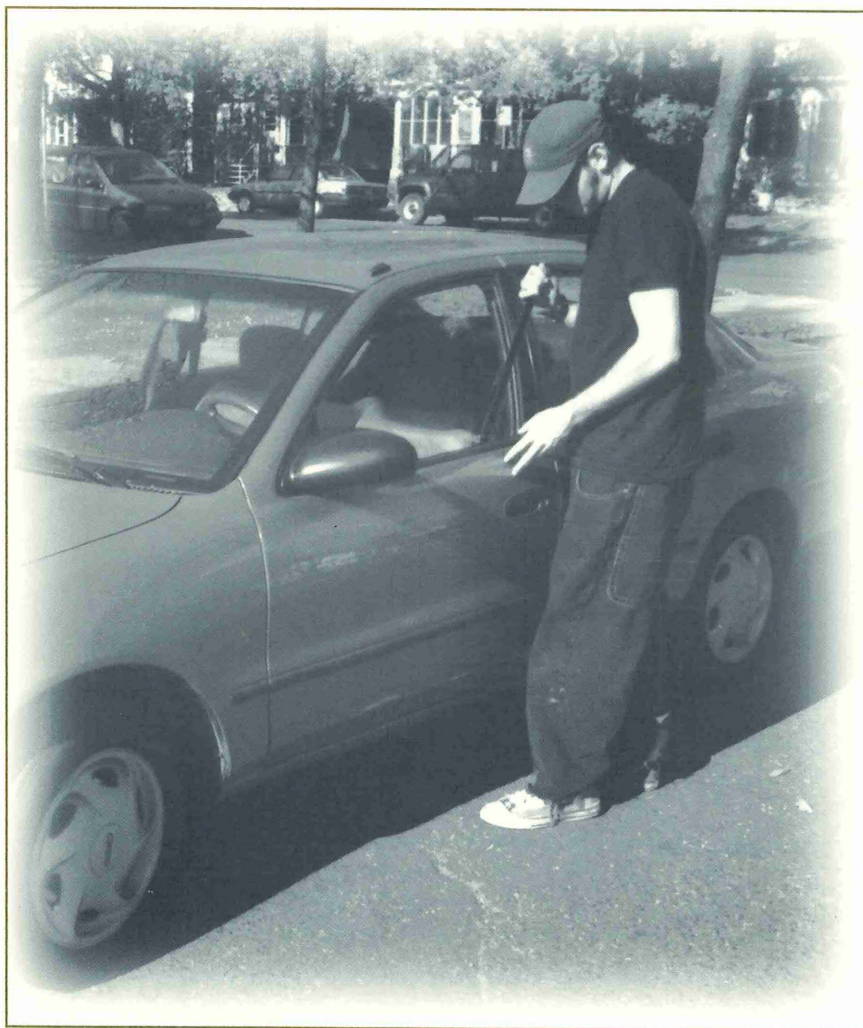


MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION PROGRAM

1998 ANNUAL REPORT

To the Governor and Legislature

State of Minnesota



HV6661
.M6
M55
1998



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

Dennis Roske

Chair

Minnesota
State Patrol

Bob Johnson

Vice -Chair

Insurance Federation
of Minnesota

Tom Harbinson

Scott County
Attorney

John Ballis

St. Paul Police
Department

Bob Larson

Duluth Police
Department

Tracie Mortenson

3M
Company

James Schutjer

Minnesota Auto Dealers
Association

January 15, 1999

RECEIVED

JAN 15 1999

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

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 pleased to present to you the annual report of our activities and expenditures during the past year.

While all other major crimes were on the decrease, the auto theft rate in Minnesota rose 23.5 % from 1994 to 1996. That dramatic rise in the auto theft rate stopped in 1997 and actually decreased for the first time in many years.

The seven member Board of Directors has met monthly during the past year working on vehicle theft strategies and reviewing grant proposals submitted by police agencies, prosecutors, and citizen groups concerned with the auto theft problem in Minnesota. For 1998, the Board of Directors approved 29 of the grant proposals aimed at the arrest and prosecution of auto thieves, and to educate Minnesota citizens on how to protect themselves from having their vehicle stolen.

I am proud of the Board's efforts to date and look forward to a successful 1999 with the Auto Theft Prevention program.

Sincerely,

Denny Roske, Chair
Auto Theft Prevention Board

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

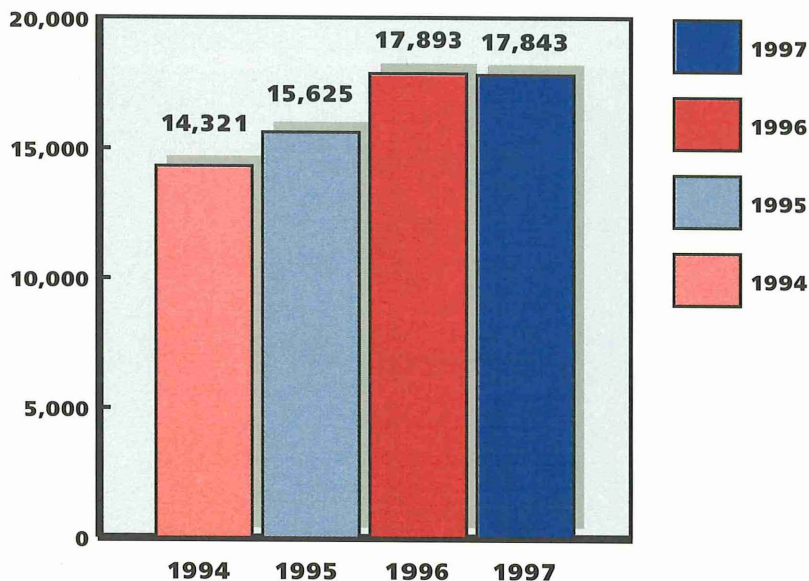
*To reduce motor vehicle theft and its consequences
in the State of Minnesota by funding programs
which aid in the :*

- *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 occur in the State of Minnesota on a yearly basis, or the financial loss due to those auto thefts. In 1997 there were 17,843 vehicles stolen that had a value of \$ 71,746,143.00. This theft loss makes for higher insurance premium costs for the consumer. Auto theft has also turned away from the alleged victimless property crime into crimes of violence such as car jacking, using stolen vehicles in armed robberies, and drive by shootings.

Minnesota's Auto Theft Statistics*



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

For the first time in four years that rapid rise in auto thefts plateaued and the rate of thefts in Minnesota went down in 1997 during the first year of operation for the Auto Theft Prevention Program.

1997 Auto Thefts in Various Towns and Counties in Minnesota

Hennepin County	8,036	Ramsey County	3,362
Minneapolis	5,036	St. Paul	2,628
Bloomington	399	Maplewood	183
Brooklyn Park	254	Roseville	140
Anoka County	856	Dakota County	886
Fridley	166	Burnsville	250
Coon Rapids	134	W. St. Paul	139
St. Louis County	481	Washington County	297
Duluth	291	Wash. Sheriff's Dept.	80
Rochester	143	St. Cloud	205

* Most current available statistics as reported by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension 1997 Crime Information Report

EXPERIENCE FROM OTHER STATE'S AUTO THEFT PROGRAMS

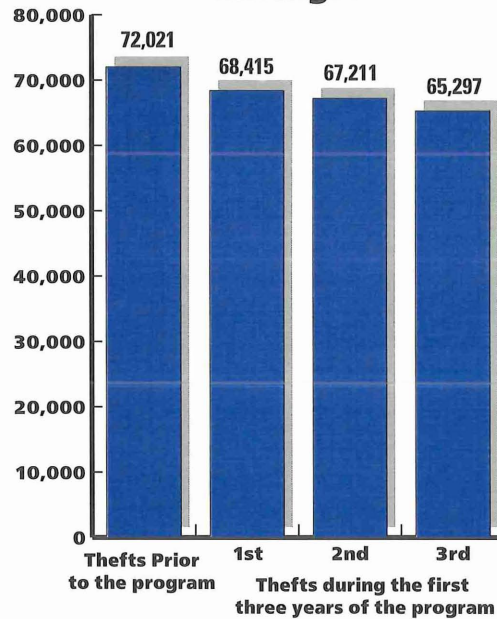
Other states have been able to show a success with their auto theft prevention grant funded programs in their initial years of operation.

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.

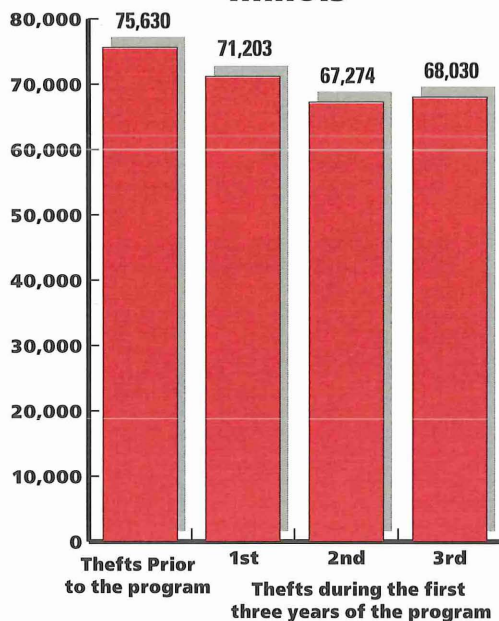
Three State's Auto Theft Rates*

* Source: Insurance Information Institute

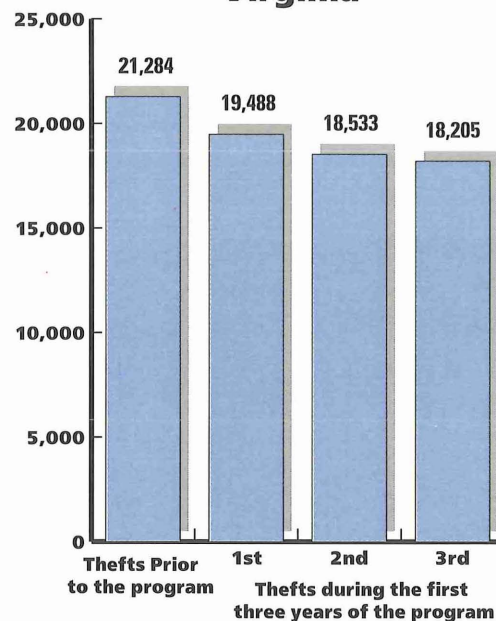
Michigan



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 will make 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 will come 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 will publish 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.

**1997 Top 10 Stolen Autos
in Minnesota***

- 1 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme**
- 2 Toyota Camry**
- 3 Honda Accord**
- 4 Oldsmobile Delta 88**
- 5 Buick Century**
- 6 Chevy S-10 Blazer**
- 7 Jeep Cherokee**
- 8 Buick LaSabre**
- 9 Chevrolet Caprice**
- 10 Chevrolet Celebrity**

* Source: Insurance Information Institute

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 **\$ 108,558.00**

Funds to be used to continue the Anoka County Auto Theft Task Force Unit established from the 1997-98 grant funding. Grant monies will be used for auto theft training for law enforcement personnel, public awareness campaigns, setting up a bait vehicle program, and working special operations.

2. Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota **\$ 11,082.05**

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.

3. Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota **\$ 167,500.00**

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.

4. Beltrami County Sheriff's Department **\$ 68,377.51**

Specialized training for a vehicle theft investigator, set up an On-Guard tracking system for a bait car, and training of officers for the enhancement of the auto theft program.

5. Burnsville Police Department **\$ 78,510.00**

Specialized training of Police Officers. Educating auto dealership personnel on auto theft. Establish a bait vehicle program and purchase equipment for the bait car.

6. Cass Lake Police Department **\$ 43,133.00**

Two officers to attend the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators Seminar in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Leasing of two bait vehicles and advertising on three local radio stations during the grant period. Implement a public awareness/prevention auto theft program.

7. Dakota County Attorney

\$ 90,752.00

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.

8. Duluth Police Department

\$ 108,610.00

Funding for one full-time auto theft investigator/project coordinator to maintain and report on the project "Operation Secure Ride". Leasing of a bait vehicle and equipment. Establishing a surveillance project in high theft areas. Conduct public awareness events.

9. Eden Prairie Police Department

\$ 22,500.00

Leasing of a bait vehicle, and the purchase of audio and video equipment for the bait car. Overtime for patrol officers, investigators and community service employees. Increase public awareness and training of officers in the identification of stolen vehicles.

10. Eagan Police Department

\$ 49,300.00

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.

11. Hennepin County Sheriff's Department

\$ 100,555.68

Purchase a pole camera and other surveillance systems to assist in the recovery of stolen motorcycles, and aide in the arrests of persons chopping up stolen motorcycles.

12. Hennepin County Attorney

\$ 118,000.00

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. Mahnomon County Sheriff's Department

\$ 6,500.00

Purchase and installation of On Guard tracking device to be used in a bait car decoy operation. Extra patrolling and surveillance of high auto theft areas.

14. Minnesota Gang Strike Force NE

\$ 58,930.00

Project "Gang Bangers on Wheels" to identify, investigate, arrest and prosecute gang members involved in the theft of motorcycles and autos. Funds will be used for training, equipment and overtime pay.

15. Minneapolis Police Department - Crime Prevention Unit **\$ 51,812.00**

To maintain and continue several auto theft programs, such as CAT, booths at the Minnesota State Fair and Minneapolis Auto Show. To establish a restorative justice for youth program. Develop a video training tape for juvenile offenders.

16. Minneapolis Police Department - 4th Precinct **\$ 110,600.00**

Leasing and maintenance of bait vehicles. purchase of GPS tracking equipment and other surveillance. Overtime funds for detailed officers and investigators. Continue an undercover store front operation and surveillance details.

17. Minneapolis Police Department - 4th Precinct **\$ 13,000.00**

Develop a public education program utilizing billboards, MTC bus advertising space, MTC bus shelter public service announcement space, and KMOJ radio public service time.

18. Maplewood Police Department **\$ 8,225.00**

Purchase vehicle tracking equipment. Produce and broadcast public service announcements on community cable access television. Provide in-service auto theft training for officers.

19. Ramsey County Attorney **\$ 91,538.00**

Continued funding a full time auto theft attorney to prosecute both adult and juvenile theft cases. Funding for part-time law clerk to assist the prosecutor.

20. Rice County Sheriff's Department **\$ 29,350.00**

Purchase of auto theft operation equipment, conducting prevention seminars and overtime to law enforcement officers. Cost of leasing and installation of equipment in bait vehicle.

21. Roseville Police Department **\$ 20,000.00**

To expand and improve reporting database capabilities initiated with the 1998 grant funds. Work with businesses and community groups to bring awareness to auto theft. Increase decoy surveillance of targeted auto theft locations and provide officer training.

22. Shakopee Police Department **\$ 11,300.00**

Lease bait vehicle and install a GPS tracking system. Employ clerical services to develop and maintain auto theft computer data base.

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

Develop juvenile offender database, continue the juvenile restorative justice program for auto theft offenders, and produce a video tape for officer training on theft methods.

24. St. Paul Department Auto Theft Unit

\$ 47,000.00

Engage in proactive investigation of chop shops, and develop specialized training on auto theft for in-service training. Purchase equipment and setting up a bait car.

25. St. Paul Police Department Special Investigations Unit

\$ 29,120.00

Leasing of a Harley Davidson motorcycle to use as a bait vehicle in high motorcycle theft areas. Surveillance details in high theft areas.

26. South St. Paul Police Department

\$ 22,650.00

Organize citizen action projects to increase awareness of auto theft. Proactive patrols and surveillance of high theft areas. Incorporate a bait car into the auto theft program.

27. St. Louis Park Police Department

\$ 56,050.00

Using a GPS tracking device set up a bait car, additional patrol and surveillance in targeted neighborhoods with high auto theft rates.

26. Washington County Sheriff

\$ 17,500.00

Set up a bait vehicle program with the purchase of GPS tracking device. Operate an informant program, and to purchase stolen cars from auto thieves.

29. West Side Safe

\$ 3,000.00

Design and disseminate to block clubs a brochure in Spanish and Hmong on the auto theft problem. Communicate auto theft information gathered with the St. Paul Police Department and the Ramsey County Attorney's Auto Theft Prosecutor.

30. South St. Paul Police Department

\$ 1,752.50

The purchase of equipment for a night surveillance operation aimed at the thefts of cars from dealers' lots.

31. Bloomington Police Department

\$ 30,000.00

Continue with an undercover operation that has identified numerous groups that have been stealing cars in the metro area, and reselling them to various body shops.

Total amount of grants awarded:

\$1,591,543.24

The administrative cost to run the program for calendar year 1998, as of December 11, 1998, was \$142,520.

MINNESOTA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Roske, Chair, Minnesota State Patrol

Sergeant Roske is a 28 year veteran with the Minnesota State Patrol. Sgt. Roske has been assigned to the Investigative Services Auto Theft Unit for the past 15 years. He is the First Vice President of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, and is also on the Board of Directors for the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota.

Robert Johnson, Vice 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.

John Ballis, St. Paul Police Department

Sergeant Ballis has been with the St. Paul Police Department for 31 years. Sgt. Ballis has been assigned to the Auto Theft Unit for the past 7 years. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Anti-Vehicle Crime Association of Minnesota.

Tom Harbinson, Scott County Attorney

Mr. Harbinson has been with the Scott County Attorney's office for 12 years, and for the past four years he has been the 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.

Robert Larson, Duluth Police Dept.

Deputy Chief Larson is a 28 year veteran with the Duluth Police Department. He has been the Deputy Chief for the last 7 years, and is currently in charge of the Uniform Division, drug and gang task force, and the special investigations unit. He has 10 years of detective experience in auto theft related crimes.

Tracie Mortenson, 3M Company

Ms. Mortenson is an Account Representative with the 3M Company in the Security Market Center. Tracie has been with the 3M Company for over 18 years. She has traveled through out 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 through out 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.

