

## Valley Community Policing Council August 2023 News

August Presentation: **Vehicle Theft** by Lt Amy Sedler and Sergeants from the APD Auto Theft Special Investigations Unit

On average 75 vehicles are stolen in ABQ weekly. Of those, 2-3 are bait cars used to lure and catch thieves. A majority of stolen vehicles are recovered, but 3-5% are taken to Mexico. The number stolen is decreasing in recent years.

How to *Reduce the Risk* of having your vehicle Stolen - Have the Vin number etched in various places. For trailers, consider having it etched under the axles. APD has a free VIN etching event upcoming, listed below. Jiffy Lube will etch your vehicle VIN on the catalytic converter for free, no other charge needed.

Documents - keep the title in your home or elsewhere, never in the vehicle. Hide the insurance and registration in the car, not in the console or glovebox. Keep photos of them in your phone. You can also get credit card size GPS tracking devices to hide in your vehicle; Apple's version is an "Air Tag."

Consider using a steering wheel club, switch off device, or a lock box under the brake pedal.

Look up whether your vehicle is frequently stolen, to help decide if you want to try other security measures.

Things NOT to do - Don't run your vehicle outside to warm the engine in winter. Don't leave the key in the vehicle, even in your garage. Don't keep the keys in the house close enough to your vehicle to activate the vehicle, this has been used in other cities to start it remotely.

If your vehicle is stolen, don't chase the thieves yourself. Auto thieves steal vehicles to commit other crimes; they are usually armed. The vehicle will be returned to you if found within a month, but consider having it professionally cleaned of drug paraphernalia and residue before you re-enter it. If it is found over a month later, it likely has been "totaled" by your insurance company. This full presentation is available on the APD CPC website under Valley CPC, August 24 meeting.

**UPCOMING EVENT:** *APD FREE vehicle glass VIN etching on September 23, 1155 University BLVD SE, 9:30-2:30.*

*Valley CPC has openings for 5 members; contact Kelly Mensah [\[KMensah@CABQ.gov\]](mailto:KMensah@CABQ.gov) or Phil Jameson [pjameson5@comcast.net] if interested.  
Next meeting: September 28, Specialty Municipal Courts - Young Adult Court.*

