

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Shoreline Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention Efforts and Accomplishments
DEPARTMENT: Police Department
PRESENTED BY: Tony Burt, Police Chief

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The Puget Sound Region along with the City of Shoreline has experienced a significant increase in auto theft over the last several years. The City of Shoreline and the Shoreline Police Department, in cooperation with private and public agencies, is working to educate our citizens on crime prevention techniques to reduce auto theft and purchase tools and equipment that will support enhanced enforcement.

BACKGROUND:

Using all of our resources the Shoreline Police Department will utilize various tools to reach more citizens with a "How to" message on reducing the chance of becoming an auto theft victim. This will include the City of Shoreline website, media releases and Channel 21. In addition these methods, we recently signed a contract to provide a locking steering wheel device through the Police Department to our citizens at a reduced rate.

The Police Department is also looking to partner with several groups that will provide our Officers with more tools to apprehend auto thieves. These will include the BAIT car program and two versions of the automated license plate reader program.

We will continue to step-p our presence in the areas of known auto thefts and look to do thorough and quick investigations of known auto theft suspects. In cooperation with the prosecutor's office we will look for enhanced penalties on all auto theft suspects charged with a crime.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney ____

ATTACHMENT A - Memorandum from Chief Tony Burt regarding Auto Theft and Accomplishments



Memorandum

DATE: June 2, 2006
TO: Bob Olander
FROM: Chief Tony Burt
**RE: AUTO THEFT EFFORTS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

During the past few years the greater Puget Sound has experienced a significant increase in regional auto theft. Shoreline Police have been working in collaboration with a number of agencies to address this regional issue. Although the increase is a significant concern to the Police Department and the citizens, the Shoreline auto theft rate is 30% less than the Puget Sound region in general.

The King County Prosecutors are aware of this trend and have responded to the issues by creating a specialized unit to address Auto Theft Filings. This unit has been very successful in prosecuting cases involving habitual auto theft defendants. Working with these specialized Prosecutors and Seattle Police we have obtained exceptional sentencing for exceptional thieves. In the last few months we can look at five of our regional top ten known auto thieves and see that collectively they have received over 200 months in jail. Numerous less known offenders have been arrested, convicted and jailed as well.

With this understanding we will look at what the Shoreline Police have done regarding auto thefts and what we hope to accomplish during 2006.

Shoreline Detectives

The Shoreline Police Department has been and continues to work with regional agencies in targeting auto theft suspects throughout the region. Further, we work with Seattle's North Precinct Auto Theft Detectives to identify and arrest suspects impacting Seattle and Shoreline.

Early this year Shoreline Detectives compiled a list of known persons arrested in stolen cars, stopped in Shoreline since January of 2005. This list contains nearly two hundred **different** names. Most of the names are persons from outside the city. They come from our neighboring cities such as Everett, Marysville or Seattle. Frequently, these suspects are contacted only once a year in Shoreline.

The Shoreline Detectives attend regional meetings to share information monthly and weekly. We collect and share information learned at these meetings with our Patrol and Traffic Officers and the King County Crime Analysis Unit.

The Seattle Police have assigned two sergeants and a team of detectives to address auto theft problems north of I-90. Shoreline Detectives are diverse general detectives responsible for crimes such as burglary, domestic violence, assaults, larcenies and auto theft.

Shoreline Detectives use volunteer staff to augment the King County Sheriff's Office Crime Analysis Unit to help determine stolen car trends. This allows them to provide Patrol Officers with the most current and up to date information possible. With this information Officers can focus on "high impact areas", which has allowed them to recover many stolen vehicles, both occupied and abandoned.

Attached are two maps concerning auto thefts in the City.

These maps are put together by our Crime Analyst and are representative of the information, which is given to our officers on a regular basis. This information is readily available to the officers via their computers. In addition a list or "HOT SHEET" is compiled weekly. This list shows Shoreline stolen cars still outstanding and is provided to all of our officers electronically.

The first map that I've attached is a map of the auto thefts, which occurred in the City during 2004/2005. As you can see, the thefts are random without any specific pattern.

The second map is a pattern map of the thefts, attempted thefts and recovered stolen vehicles for the week of March 23-29, 2006. The box on the right side of the map gives specific information concerning times of the theft, type of recovery etc...this map is also provided to our officers.

As per your request I've also attached a graph detailing the auto thefts per thousand population in the City. I've also provided a graph detailing the auto thefts in Shoreline from 2001-2005 as well as thefts from Seattle, Federal Way and cities from our geographic area that are comparable to Shoreline.

Shoreline Detectives continue to aggressively work auto theft cases with our regional neighbors combating this Puget Sound Regional problem. We will continue to work with our neighbors in Snohomish, King and Kitsap Counties.

Wireless Technology Update

In late February of this year I provided you with an update concerning the Wireless Deployment Project. We continue to experience great success utilizing this new technology.

Officers continue to use the wireless technology on a daily basis. Officer Muncy comments that every shift he inputs 100 plus license plates through the system looking for stolen cars and warrants associated with a specific car or registered owner etc...

Recently Officer Muncy input the license plate of a suspicious car that he was following. Not only did the registered owner of the car have a warrant out for his arrest but he had a suspended license as well. Officer Muncy continued to work on the computer prior to initiating a traffic stop and was able to pull up a picture of the registered owner. He then stopped the car and was able to positively identify the driver who was in fact the registered owner of the car and arrest him for the warrant and cite him for the license violation.

Many of the vehicles we have been recovering are in great part a direct result of the officers running license plates using the wireless technology. The officers are very diligent concerning evidence when recovering stolen vehicles. There is a very specific criterion the King County Prosecutor's Office has put into place concerning the prosecution for stolen vehicles. Officers are **required** to document any damage, the driver's seat position and if possible the method used to gain entry to the car and how the car was started.

Shoreline Police Officers also process all cars for fingerprints. Officers are required to provide an explanation if they were unable to locate prints.

This new computer resource has provided new opportunities to detect criminal activity since Officers are not limited to the availability of radio dispatch to investigate suspicious individuals or vehicles.

On **March 13, 2006**, Detective Turi with our Street Crimes Unit saw a suspicious car in the Old Country Buffet parking lot. Using the new Voyager system on his laptop he ran the license plate of the car and it came back stolen. Detective Turi and assisting officers set-up on the car and watched as two suspects got into the vehicle.

Following a short vehicle pursuit and K-9 track, two juveniles from the City of Seattle were arrested and booked into the King County Youth Center for Investigation of Auto Theft and Attempting to Elude.

On **April 20, 2006**, at about 1:00 p.m. the King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center received a telephone call from an employee of the CityBank in Richmond Beach. The employee told the call receiver that a man had walked into the bank and handed one of the tellers a note that said, "This is a robbery. I have a gun and a bomb". The note instructed the teller to put certain denominations of cash into a bag. The teller complied and the man ran from the bank.

A citizen who was parked just east of the bank saw the man run from the bank. He thought this was peculiar and continued to watch. Within seconds a bank employee locked the bank doors from the inside. At this point, the citizen assumed that the man had robbed the bank. The citizen followed the man who jogged North on 8th Avenue and then to a car parked on North 190th. The citizen wrote down the license plate and then drove back to the bank and drove up to the drive through. He confirmed that the bank had been robbed and gave the license plate number to an employee who in turn gave the information to the call receiver.

As sometimes happens certain information systems were down at the communications center and so they were unable to run the suspect's license plate for the make and model etc.

Officer McCutchen used his Voyager Wireless Technology to run the license plate number. He got a return on a turquoise Mercury Cougar, which was stolen out of Seattle.

As Officer McCutchen drove westbound on North 205th he saw the suspect sitting in the LeBaron facing eastbound on 205th waiting in traffic for the light to change. Officer McCutchen said they made eye contact at which point the suspect managed to get around the traffic and drive through the gas station parking lot on the corner and then south onto Aurora Avenue.

Officer McCutchen gave chase in his fully marked patrol car. Sgt. Woo pulled in behind Officer McCutchen. The suspect was driving at a high rate of speed and pulled off Aurora and onto Firlands Way North.

Traffic Officer Eric White was driving North on Firlands in his fully marked patrol car. Other officers were also coming into the area with their lights and siren on.

Finding himself out-manuevered the suspect slowed considerably and was blocked in on all sides by our officers. The officers arrested him without incident.

As the pursuit is occurring Master Patrol Officer Beth Lavin had arrived at the bank and was interviewing the bank employees. The employee is describing the suspect in detail to MPO Lavin who immediately puts two and two together and called the Kenmore Police Department.

On April 15th of this year a gas station in Kenmore was robbed. They asked for our help and MPO Lavin went and took witness statements at the robbery scene.

The physical description of the suspect from our robbery matched the suspect from their robbery.

At this point, we contacted Detective Christina Bartlett in the King County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit. She is the assigned investigator on the Kenmore robbery.

She came to our Precinct and interviewed the suspect. When she finished she had obtained a number of confessions from the suspect. Not only did he confess to the robbery he had just committed at the CityBank but he admitted to a second bank robbery in Seattle. He also admitted to two more robberies and a stolen vehicle in Shoreline as well as the robbery in Kenmore.

The suspect is a convicted felon and has a substantial criminal history. He was booked into the King County Jail for Investigation of Robbery.

Yet again, another great example of how the wireless technology has truly benefited our officers and the citizens of Shoreline. Using the new technology Officer McCutchen as well as several other officers were immediately running the license plate number. Officer McCutchen knew he was looking for a turquoise Cougar and this specific information helped draw his attention to the suspect's car.

Note: The car that was used in the Kenmore robbery was stolen from a car lot in Shoreline. At the time, of the information broadcast via our police radio regarding the robbery Officer Palus recognized the vehicle description as matching the stolen vehicle report he had taken in Shoreline and contacted the Kenmore Police with possible suspect information.

This is an outstanding example of textbook police work at its best!

The officers at our Police Department continue to aggressively pursue those involved in the auto thefts. Recently I've been updating you through the Weekly Alert regarding a number of auto theft arrests our officers have been making. In 2005 our arrests of suspects for auto theft/possession of stolen property in the first degree rose 68%.

I've attached a graph listing the 2004/2005 charges resulting from Auto Theft/Recovery Incidents. This map also shows 2004/2005 Auto Thefts by Location/Premise Type and 2004/2005 Auto Theft Conditions.

Future Technology

Several new technologies are now being advertised and purchased by law enforcement agencies throughout the region. The Shoreline Police Dept. is looking into all of these new opportunities and is arranging for demos at this time.

One of the more expensive tools is the License Plate Reading and Analysis Technology. A patrol vehicle is equipped with a camera/infra-red technology, which reads license plates on a constant basis. These plates are then run on a data-base provided through several different agencies. When a stolen license plate/vehicle is run, an alarm goes off notifying the Officer of the "HIT". The recognition occurs almost immediately. Cost is approximately \$20,000 per unit.

A local entrepreneur has come up with a similar technology without all of the bells and whistles. The product essentially operates in the same manner but does not have infra-red, alarms, etc... It will run off of software placed into our current computers. It will cost approximately \$300 per unit. There is an associated annual fee that is negotiable. New technology is being offered with this system on a daily basis, including Bluetooth capability.

BAIT cars have been around for several years. This technology includes a tracking system, etc... that is downloaded into a computer. The computer is dedicated to the BAIT car/system. Cost for the hardware/software is between \$4500 and \$8800, depending on options. We have contacted NICB (National Insurance Crime Bureau) who will provide us with the system. They will then work with us to purchase and/or use one of their BAIT cars. These cars can be started, turned off, locked and tracked by the software provided. It allows officers to track and ultimately apprehend auto theft suspects without getting into pursuits, etc... Kenmore and SeaTac have recently purchased this equipment and are looking into getting a vehicle. Shoreline may be able to work with these agencies to share the costs.

Storefront Offices

The two storefronts have been very proactive when it comes to auto theft prevention. They have published a number of articles about this subject in their Block Watch News publications.

They have made these articles available on the City website. The Storefront officers also speak about auto theft prevention when they are attending Block Watch meetings, community meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings, etc....

Sergeant Larson has spoken with Susan Will regarding the police website. According to Susan our website currently ranks 11th in the City for the number of hits it receives. We will be updating our website regularly and adding relevant crime prevention tips as well as other crime trends occurring in the City.

This same information is also provided to citizens who frequent our storefronts.

Crime analysis has shown that 28% of our auto thefts occur from apartment complexes. As a result of this analysis Officer Leona Obstler, our Eastside storefront officer, has put together an auto theft prevention brochure. Included in the brochure is a list of Anti-Auto Theft prevention tips as well as auto theft information specific to Shoreline. These brochures will be supplied to each apartment complex manager in the City. We will encourage the managers to post the information in a visible location that is accessible to pre-existing tenants as well as provide this information to each new resident. The brochures will also be available at the precinct and at each storefront.

Please see attached "Anti-Auto Theft Program" brochure.

Officer Elfenson, our Eastside Storefront Officer, is in the process of putting together an auto anti-theft device program into effect (The CLUB). This is a program that is available to law enforcement and will entitle our citizens to obtain "The CLUB" at our cost.

The "CLUB" is considered an auto anti-theft device. Our Storefront Officers have been in contact with Nick Gligor, the Law Enforcement Affairs representative for Winner International/The Club.

Model: #504 Auto Theft Task Force Club – this Club is a highly visible Yellow vinyl covered lock. Imprinted on the device is "Auto Theft Task Force". Basically, this item is for car use and small cab pickups and vans.

Cost: \$10.00 per unit

Model: #2110 Blue Truck/SUV Club – this is the same Truck/SUV Club that is seen in the retail sector. It is approximately 6" longer than a standard Auto Club and provides better protection for large cab vehicles such as pickups, vans, and SUV's. Also this unit is "self-locking", meaning that you only need the key to unlock it as it locks itself automatically when extended on the steering wheel.

Cost: \$15.00 per unit

These are the standard Clubs for law enforcement related programs.

Any police purchase order of 25 units or more is shipped freight free. On orders of less than 25 units shipping charges will be based on weight and destination. The carriers set these rates and Winner International has no control over these costs. No tax is assessed to any invoice.

Smaller orders (less than 300 lbs./approximately 84 Clubs or 7 cases of 12 units each) would ship UPS and no extra fee would be charged.

Any order can be submitted by purchase order, prepaid check/money order (we can fax over a copy of the check/money order to expedite our order and then mail the hard copy to Nick Gligor's attention), or VISA etc. There is no minimum order needed to be afforded this cost of the Clubs. Nick's only request is that orders would come as a public/private entity or organization and not from individuals as he cannot provide individuals these program costs.

Our order will be received within 7-10 business days.

We've been in contact with the Everett Police Department who uses this program and they say it is very popular.

This program will also be advertised in our Anti-Auto Theft brochure and a brief training will accompany each CLUB given out. We will provide the club to Shoreline Citizens at our cost which will cover the initial investment.

The initial investment to the city would be \$1,290.00. This amount would cover our initial purchase of 120 car clubs and 48 truck clubs.

Sergeant Larson has spoken with Joyce Nichols and Susan Will and will be working in a cooperative effort to design and promote an Anti Auto-theft campaign for the City.

We ran an article in the June edition of Currents promoting Anti-Auto theft awareness in conjunction with "The Club" program as well as discussing auto theft from a crime prevention perspective. Sergeant Larson is currently working with Susan on this and we anticipate the article to be published in the June edition of Currents.

Thirty-eight percent, YES, thirty-eight percent of the auto thefts occurring in the City of Shoreline happen when the car owners leave their car doors unlocked! This type of information is crucial for our citizens to know especially from a crime prevention standpoint.

We will be working with the City to produce a power point presentation pertaining to an Anti-Auto Theft Prevention Public Service Announcement to be played on our public access channel

The sharing of information is one of the most important ways to prevent crime. Auto theft is no exception. Our storefronts will continue to work diligently to provide the information necessary to prevent auto theft within our community.

Ballinger Homes

Patrol Officers were hired by the King County Housing authority on an overtime basis approximately 13 years ago. This was due to increasing gang violence to include assaults and shootings mainly at Ballinger Homes. Advanced problem solving is at the forefront of our approach. We work directly with Housing on problem tenants and formulate a game plan tailored specifically to each separate incident. We have been very successfully in evicting and removing tenants that have violated their lease agreements or committed crimes in the complex.

Over the years we have established a great rapport with the residents and staff. We educate residents on Fraud and Identity Theft, which impacts many of our seniors and disabled persons. We provide free bicycles and helmets to the kids at Ballinger homes.

In Ballinger we have established a "Key Keeper", which is similar to a Block Watch Captain. We coordinate with them regularly for information on concerns, issues and possible crime trends. This includes the current problem with auto theft and recovered stolen vehicles.

Last year Sgt. Johannes obtained 50 steering wheel locking devices. (He had obtained these devices for free as a promotional item. These were not the "CLUB" and are substantially more expensive) He researched and obtained information on recent auto theft victims in the complex and identified numerous vehicles in Ballinger Homes that were high "target" type vehicles. He met with the residents and showed them how to use the locking devices and educated them on auto theft prevention. Residents were provided with the devices and as a result auto thefts in Ballinger Homes have decreased and our citizens are more proactive and educated.

This is just one example of how direct interaction/information exchange with our neighborhoods, businesses and apartment complexes can reduce crime such as auto theft.

Proactive Detectives

Proactive Detectives work with Shoreline Detectives to identify suspects and track them whenever possible. They also work with other agencies to serve search warrants, share information and determine possible crime trends. The proactive unit has been very effective at locating occupied stolen vehicles. Please refer back to the example given above concerning Detective Turi's arrest.

When the Proactive Unit was formed, when Shoreline incorporated, it consisted of four detectives on two squads giving seven day a week coverage. It was common knowledge that those detectives had a tremendous impact on the crime rate in Shoreline. They were very proactive in their approach, utilizing the Drug Abatement Program to combat drug dealing/use out of known residences in our city. This program was used successfully on almost 100 houses providing landlords with notification and when necessary the information to evict those engaging in criminal drug activity.

The Proactive Unit was also responsible for developing and implementing our Motel/Hotel Trespass Program.

The purpose of the "CITY OF SHORELINE MOTEL/HOTEL TRESPASS PROGRAM" is to prevent crime along Aurora Avenue North by preventing those responsible for committing such crimes as prostitution, drug trafficking, street robbery, and related "Street crimes" from using the motels in this area as a "base of operation" for such activities. When a person or persons are removed from one motel within that area, those persons will also be banned, for one year, from all motels within that area that are participating in the program.

The Proactive Detectives developed relationships with our Motel/Hotel owners and their staff, which allowed them to work in a cooperative effort to share information and to combat crime in and around the motels. Because of the plainclothes status these detectives are able to meet with Motel/Hotel staff without being easily detected by criminal elements.

The Proactive Detectives were also available to work special emphasis details. The ability to work in plainclothes and in unmarked cars provides us with an invaluable resource concerning surveillance. Street informants who provide us with information concerning auto thefts, drug sales, vice etc.... are much more willing to meet with a detective wearing plainclothes than an officer wearing a uniform and driving a marked police car.

On March 1, 2001, one of the detective positions was converted to a sergeant position and Sgt. Kain was assigned. About 2 years later of the detective positions was moved to the traffic unit, leaving two detectives and a sergeant. This decrease in personnel makes it increasingly difficult for the Unit to be proactive in their efforts to control crime trends and problem areas.

Currently, the Proactive Unit investigates all Narcotic Activity Reports. They are also responsible for all follow-ups resulting from a drug arrest or prescription forgery. They also help the Precinct detective unit when necessary with surveillance, search warrants etc....

When they do surveillance, search warrants or other projects they cannot do it without borrowing personnel from other units or precincts. According to a memo written to me by Sgt. Kain the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center Undercover School and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration classes all stress that to do an acceptable surveillance you need a minimum of six officers/vehicles. While I know and understand that at this point this number is not a realistic one I do believe that increasing the number of proactive detectives would greatly benefit our mission to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

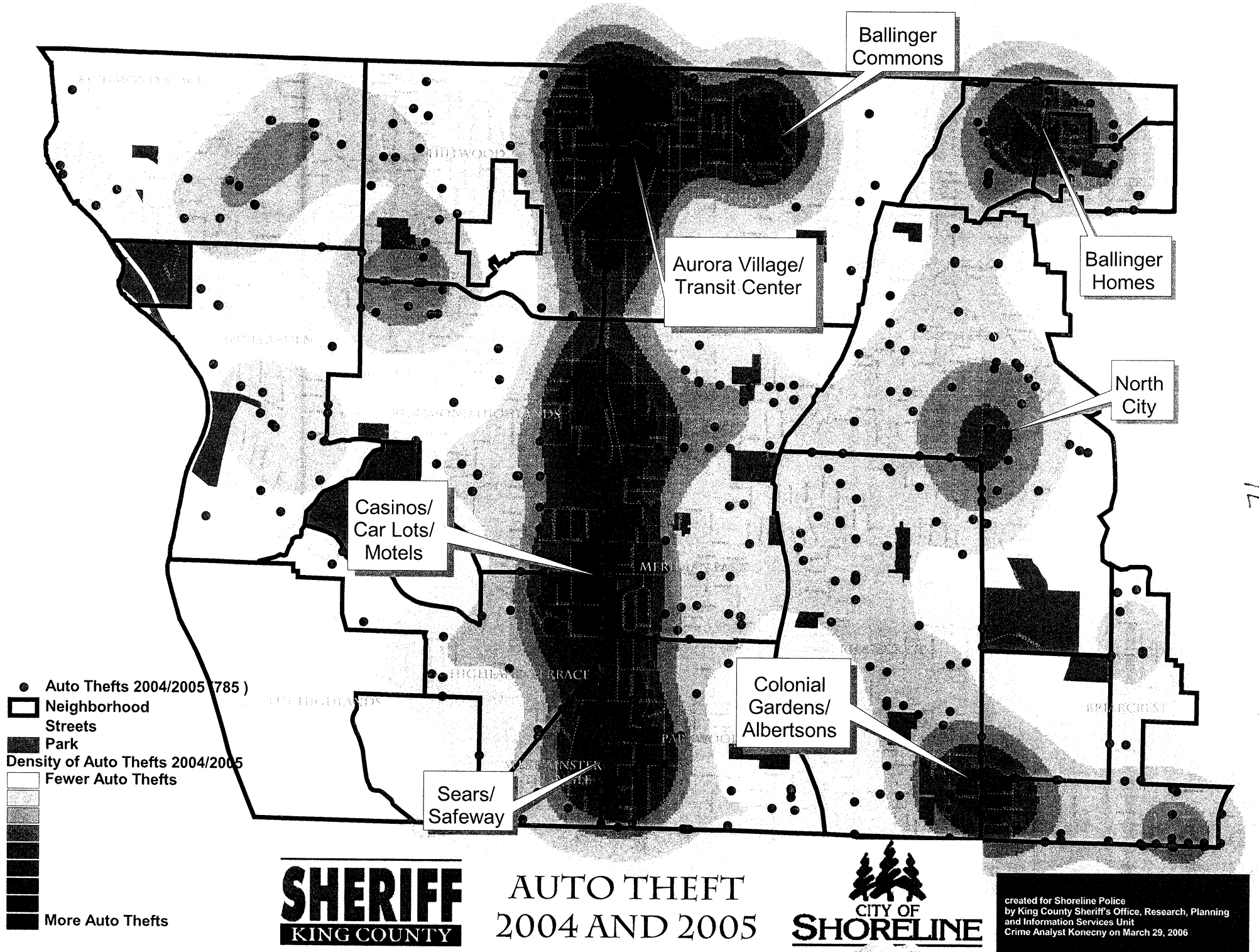
It is difficult to truly explain just how important a Proactive Unit is to our Department.

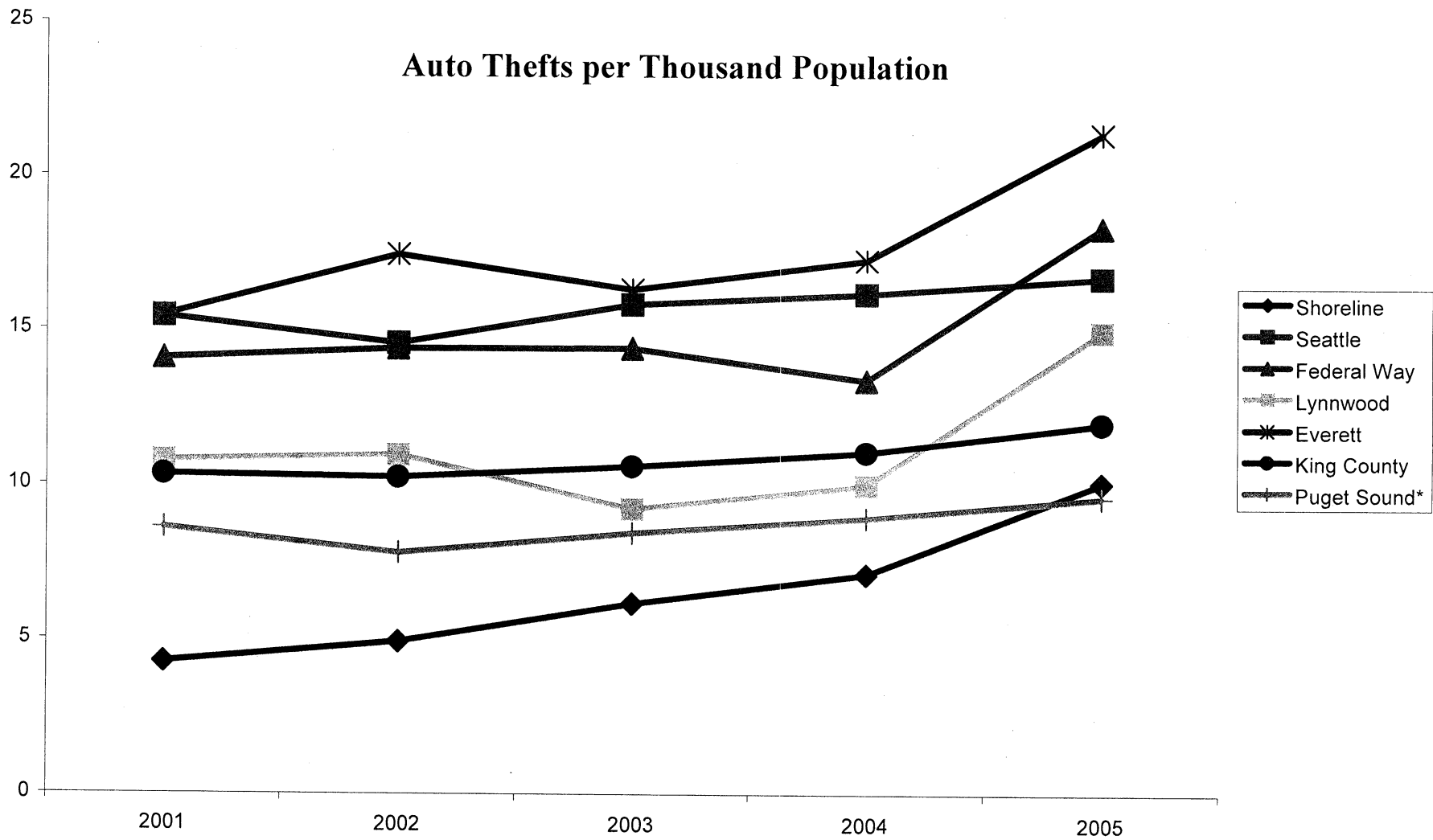
The Proactive is also considered an extension of patrol. Often times plainclothes detective can and do enter incidents prior to the patrol officers. They gather valuable intelligence information, which

they provide, to patrol. They can and do throw on a police jacket and back up the patrol officers when needed.

The Shoreline Proactive Unit will also be working with the King County Sheriff's Office TAC-30 team to put together a patrol emphasis sometime in the first half of 2006. A similar emphasis was very effective in reducing auto theft and ALL crime during December 2005.

I hope the information I have given you provides a deeper insight into the Auto Theft problems in our City. Know that the Shoreline Police Department is working diligently to provide Anti-Auto Theft information to our citizens and that we are also working in a cooperative effort with our neighboring cities and law enforcement agencies to combat this very regional and national crime trend.





72

<u>Auto Thefts</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2,004</u>	<u>**2005</u>
Shoreline	227	262	325	375	528
Seattle	8,755	8,308	9,052	9,253	9,563
Federal Way	1,180	1,206	1,204	1,118	1,573
Lynnwood	367	372	318	344	520
Everett	1,482	1,675	1,579	1,672	2,085
King County	18,293	18,301	19,116	19,939	21,884
Puget Sound*	30,365	27,823	30,640	32,392	37,140

Source: <http://www.waspc.org/documents/cjis/2004-1995.xls> & published annual Crime in Washington reports

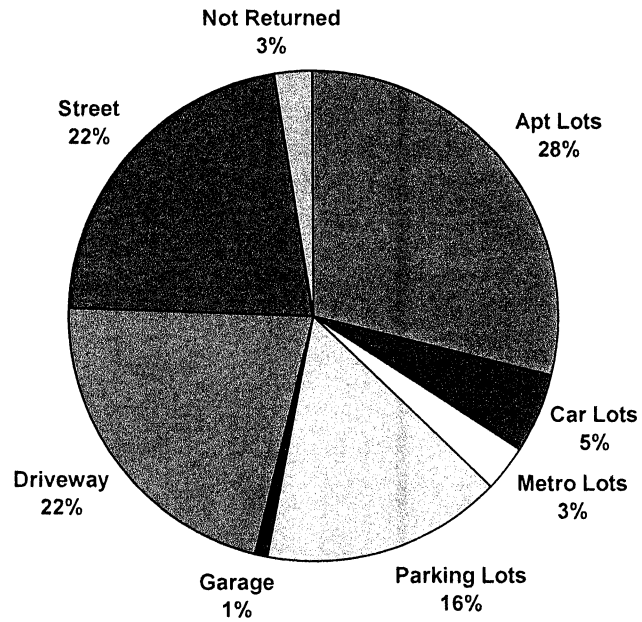
*Puget Sound includes all of King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap, & Thurston counties

**2005 stats Source:

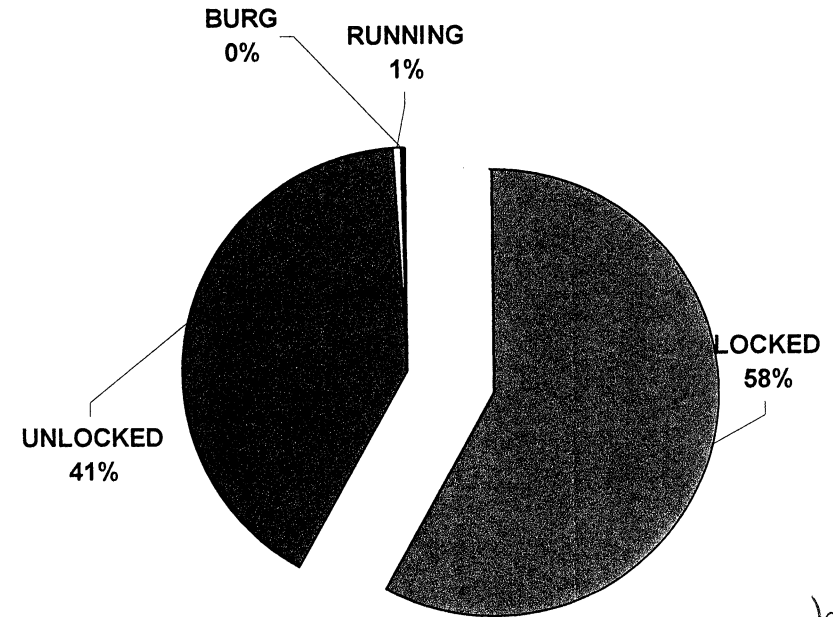
http://www.waspc.org/documents/cjis/2005_Preliminary_Crime_Statistics_Part2.pdf

This page intentionally left blank.

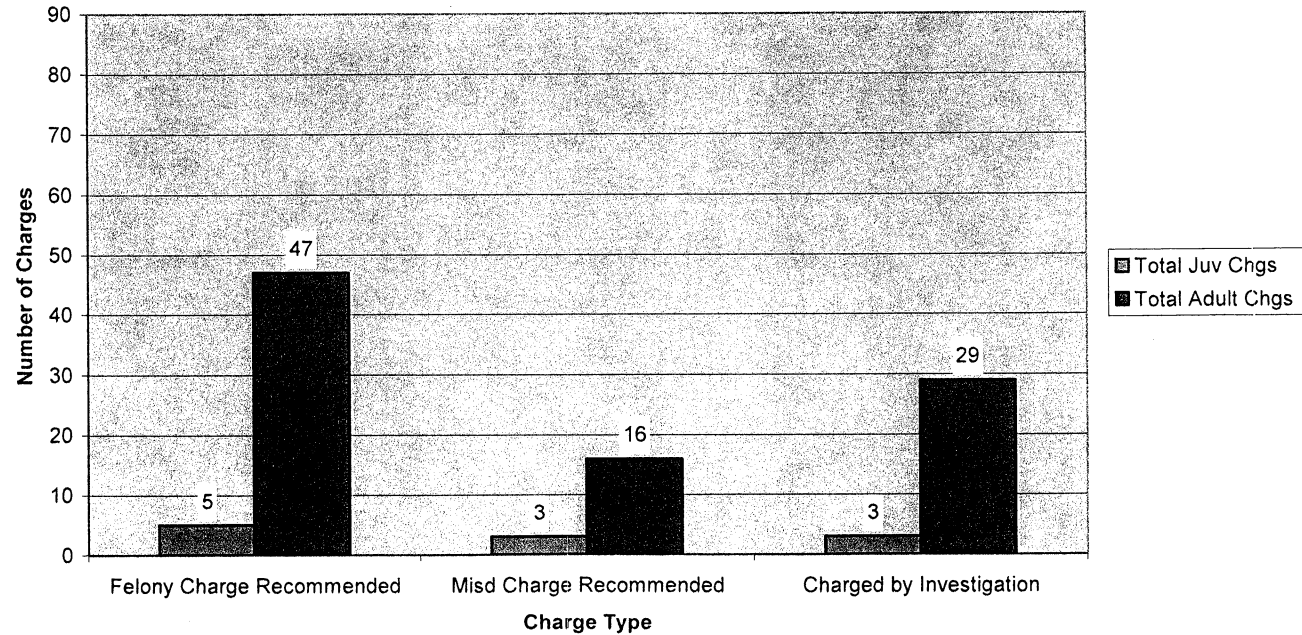
2004 Auto Theft by Location / Premise Type



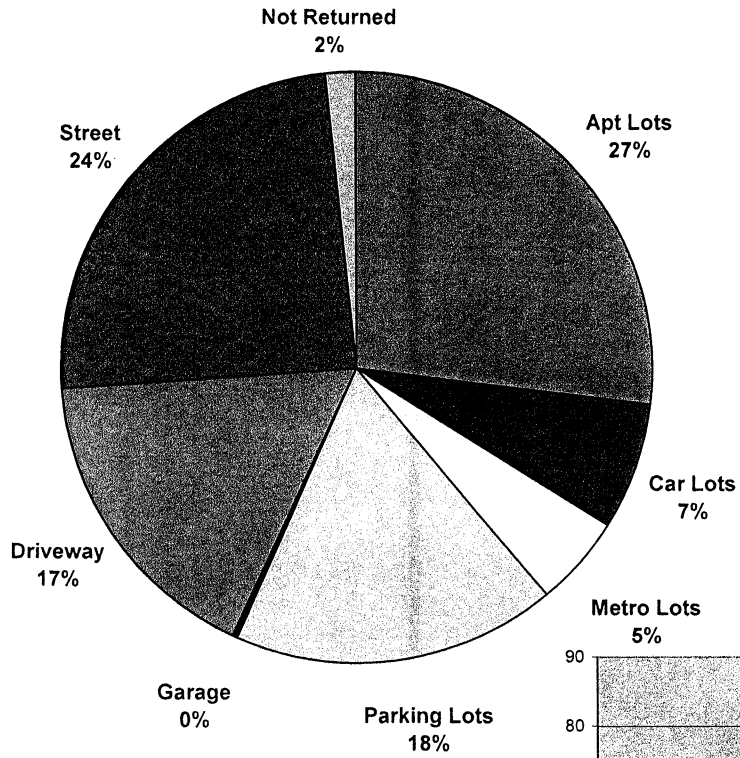
2004 Auto Theft Conditions



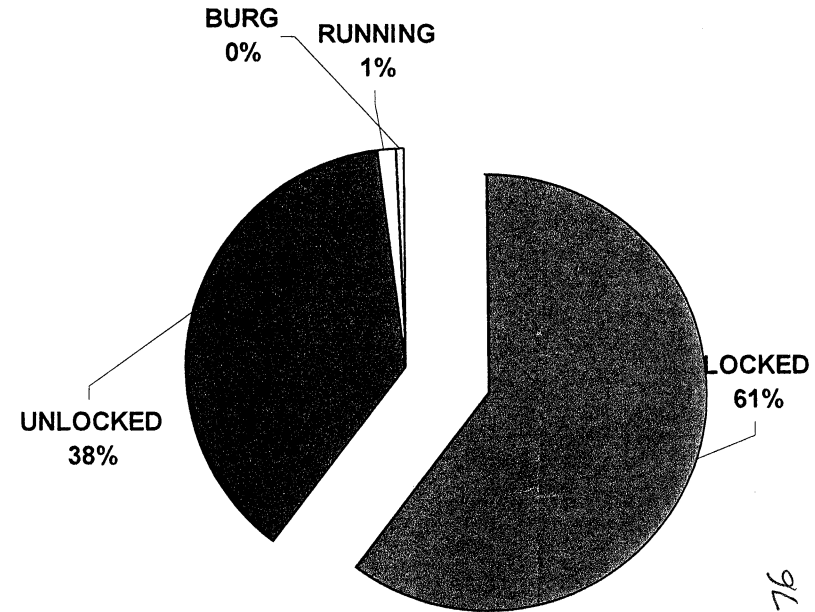
2004 Charges Resulting from Auto Theft/Recovery Incidents



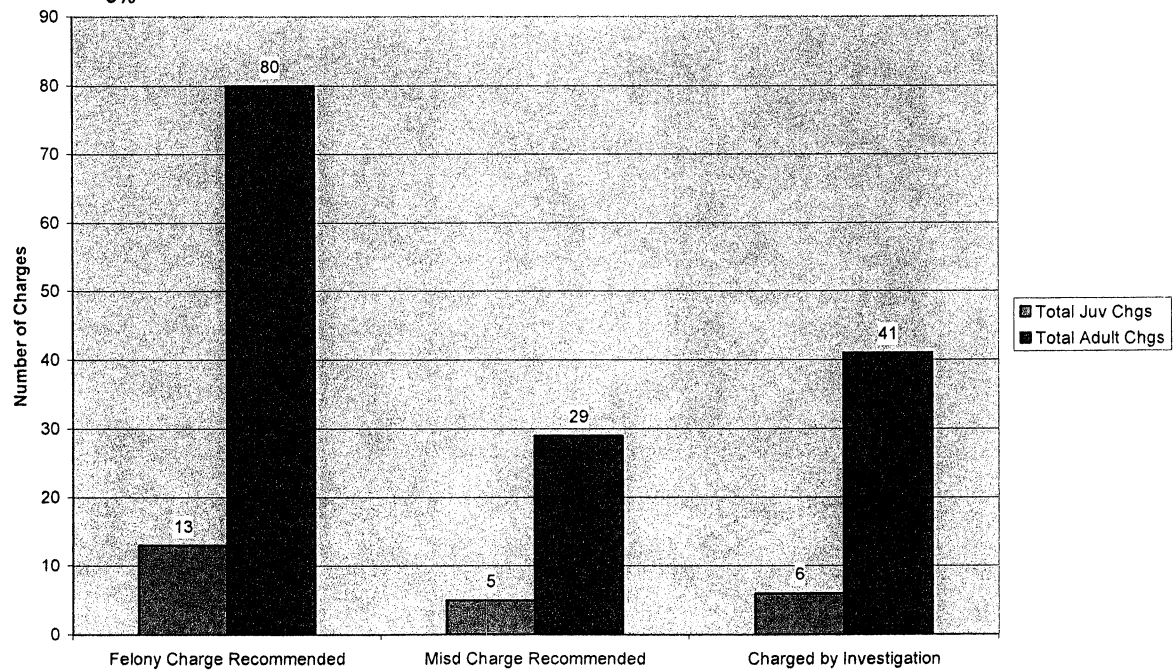
2005 Auto Theft by Location / Premise Type



2005 Auto Theft Conditions

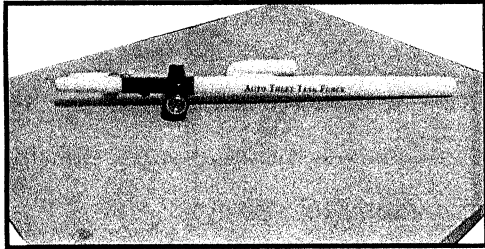


2005 Charges Resulting from Auto Theft/Recovery Incidents



76

CLUB PROGRAM



AUTO THEFT "TASK FORCE" DEVICE

Available soon at low cost at our main precinct and both storefront offices, this Anti-Theft Device is yet another layer of protection. The more protected your vehicle is, the more difficult it is to steal.

Devices have solid steel hooks for greater security. Cro-moly steel construction resists sawing, prying, and hammering..



Shoreline Police

Shoreline Police
Main Precinct
1206 N. 185th Street
206-546-6730

Shoreline Police
Westside Neighborhood Center
624 NW Richmond Beach Road
206-546-3636

Shoreline Police
Eastside Neighborhood Center
521 NE 165 Street
206-363-8424

Shoreline Police

ANTI-AUTO THEFT PROGRAM



Put the Brakes on Vehicle Theft

Protection...

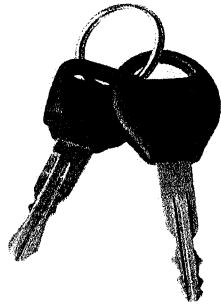
DO THE MATH

Auto Theft Stat's

An auto theft occurs about every 26 seconds in the United States. Add it up and that's 1.2 million vehicles each year that wind up in the hands of thieves.

The math doesn't get any better when you consider how much this costs all of us.

38% of the cars stolen in Shoreline last year had been left unlocked.



LOCK YOUR DOORS

Take steps to make your vehicle less attractive to a thief.

There are some simple common sense steps and other layers of protection that can help us reduce auto theft and prevent you from becoming a victim.

COMMON SENSE

These are simple and don't cost you a thing:

- Lock Your Doors
- Remove your keys from the ignition
- Close your windows completely
- Park in well-lit areas
- Remove valuables, packages and mail from view

VISIBLE OR AUDIBLE DEVICE

We find vehicle alarms annoying when they go off. Even better, so do car thieves...and they avoid autos with alarms or anti-theft devices! Consider adding a visible or audible anti-theft device to your vehicle.

- Audible alarm system
- Steering wheel locks
- Steering column collars
- Theft deterrent decals
- Wheel locks
- Window etching

VEHICLE IMMOBILIZER

Thieves can bypass your ignition by "hotwiring" a vehicle. You can put the heat on the car thieves by installing or utilizing a vehicle immobilizer system.

- Smart keys with computer chips that must be present to start the vehicle
- Fuse cut-offs
- Kill switches
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers

TRACKING SYSTEM

Tracking systems emit a signal to police or a monitoring service when the vehicle is reported stolen. If your vehicle has a tracking system and is stolen, it can often be recovered faster and with less damage. Put your vehicle on the radar screen by installing a tracking device.