

TO THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR EDWARD G. RENDELL AND
MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE:

The Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority has been working to prevent vehicle theft in the Commonwealth since 1996. And with this, our sixth annual report, I am pleased to tell you that reported motor vehicle thefts in Pennsylvania declined for the sixth straight year: from 32,306 in 2001 to *30,549 in 2002.

We again present our annual report in a unique shape and familiar vehicle icon: the wheel. The wheel reminds us that we are moving forward and have made great strides in auto theft prevention. From 2001 to 2002, there were 1,757 fewer stolen cars in Pennsylvania. That's a nice number to report. However, our mission to eliminate auto theft is not complete. The 30,549 cars stolen in 2002 translate into an average of 83.7 cars stolen per day in Pennsylvania.

If your car is one of the 83 cars stolen per day, you won't be pleased. And we know that means there's more work to do.

But the numbers are dropping and for that we can be proud. We must congratulate our grantees for their diligence in investigating and prosecuting auto theft in Pennsylvania. And I'd like to thank the Rendell Administration and the Pennsylvania General Assembly for supporting the Auto Theft Prevention Authority.

The Authority's unflagging commitment to preventing vehicle theft in Pennsylvania sends a strong message to thieves: "You're not getting my car."

Respectfully,



Julia K. Hearthway, Chair

Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority

* UCR numbers are subject to continual edit and are not complete until the Annual Report is compiled. The Annual Report for 2002 is expected October 2003.