

TIGHTENING THE BONDS

Our grantees made 1,351 arrests, and there were 606 convictions.

To the Honorable Governor Edward G. Rendell and Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly: Each year I proudly report the continued success of the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority. After all, cutting auto theft by nearly 50 percent in the Commonwealth since our inception is something to be proud of!

This year, I would like to share with you some new partnerships that have been woven into the fabric of our organization as we focused on making new connections and strengthening current ties.

Thanks to our long-term partners—our grantees—we are able to celebrate another year of declining auto theft rates. In 2007, 26,048 vehicles were stolen*; the Authority's law enforcement partners made or assisted in the arrests of 1,351 individuals and had 606 convictions. Their investigative efforts led to the recovery of \$43.5 million worth of stolen vehicles and parts. Now, more than ever, auto theft cases cross county borders with casework intertwined. Thankfully, our network of grantees can

more easily work together and share the responsibility of fighting auto theft in Pennsylvania with the Authority's support. Creating and expanding this spirit of cooperation has been our focus as we lay the groundwork for new ways for grantees to communicate, investigate and stop auto theft.

We have recognized that auto thieves may learn to outsmart new anti-theft technologies almost as quickly as they are invented. To keep our officers up to date as experts in their field, the Authority this year—for the first time—held a two-day training conference, bringing insurance industry special investigative units and law enforcement together to share knowledge and renew their commitment to partnership.

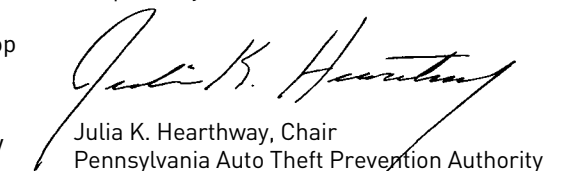
To help our network of law enforcement officers that continues to combat auto theft across the entire Commonwealth, the Authority introduced a new public awareness

campaign in the southeast region of Pennsylvania where more than 40% of the auto thefts occur. The Authority partnered with the Philadelphia Eagles to launch "75 Tips for the Tailgater," introducing a new take on traditional auto theft prevention tips. Together, the Authority and the Eagles reached millions of Commonwealth residents and showed them that protecting your ride can be as rewarding as rooting for your favorite team.

Fighting auto theft continues to be a challenge, but with our coordinated efforts statewide, we are keeping thieves at bay. As each year passes, we will continue to strengthen the organization and establish new partnerships and technologies, as well as encourage drivers of all ages to guard themselves against auto theft through effective outreach efforts.

Together, we will continue to protect the citizens of Pennsylvania from auto theft, making it a safer place to drive.

Respectfully,


Julia K. Hearthway, Chair
Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority

* Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Definition: Motor vehicle theft is the illegal taking of a motor vehicle, or driving the vehicle without the owner's consent. Attempted motor vehicle thefts are included. Includes theft of motor-driven vehicles, such as autos, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor scooters and snowmobiles. Data accurate as of 2/25/08. UCR numbers are subject to continual edit and not complete until the UCR Annual Report is compiled. The 2007 UCR Annual Report is expected October 2008.