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ATPA Welcomes New Board Member

The ATPA welcomes Colonel Frank E. Pawlowski, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, as the newest member of their Board of Directors.

Colonel Pawlowski was appointed Commissioner by Governor Rendell following the departure of Commissioner Colonel Jeffrey Miller (a former ATPA Board member) on July 11, 2008. Miller retired from the State Police to join the NFL as their Director of Strategic Security. After being nominated by the PA Anti-Car Theft Committee to the ATPA Board of Directors, Colonel Pawlowski was certified by Governor Rendell.

Colonel Pawlowski enlisted in the State Police in 1978, following in the footsteps of his father who was also a State Police Trooper. In a press release announcing his appointment, the State Police reported that he "began his career in patrol and criminal investigation assignments in the southeastern region of the state."



Colonel Frank E. Pawlowski, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, and new ATPA Board member

Board Member, continued on Pg. 3

Message from the Executive Director



In this issue of our newsletter, we are proud to welcome the newest member of our Board of Directors, Colonel Frank E. Pawlowski, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. Our organization looks forward to working with Colonel Pawlowski and the State Police as we continually work to combat and prevent auto theft in Pennsylvania.

Also in this issue, we showcase a new pilot educational and enforcement effort recently launched in Reading designed to decrease the number of thefts that occur when people leave their vehicle running unattended. The “Take Your Keys” program is the first of its kind; combining an educational advertising campaign with concerted enforcement efforts. The goal of the campaign is to notify Reading drivers that it is, in fact, illegal to leave their vehicle running unattended, and that the Reading Police Department will be issuing tickets to offenders. The campaign is a cooperative effort endorsed by Reading Police Chief William M. Heim, Reading Mayor Thomas M. McMahon, Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams, and the ATPA.

This year, we have seen an increase in the number and severity of thefts from automobile dealerships. One of our grantees reported that one thief stole over \$1 million worth of vehicles on his own. In an effort to notify dealers that they are at risk, we contributed an article to *The Driving Force*, a publication from the Automobile Dealers Association of Greater Philadelphia. The article featured tips to help dealers assess their risk and consider security improvements to protect their inventory.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind our readers that, no matter where you live or work, you should never leave your vehicle running unattended. It is more clear than ever that auto theft is a crime of opportunity, and leaving your vehicle running unattended and unprotected creates an easy opportunity for theft. After all, it only takes three seconds to steal a running vehicle. Do your part—turn off your engine, hide your valuables, lock the doors, and take the keys! Follow these simple tips and together we can reduce auto theft in PA.

Stay warm and safe,



Michelle L. Staton
Executive Director, Auto Theft Prevention Authority

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Commissioner,
Pennsylvania State Police

Mark Your Calendars

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) Auto Theft Academy

St. Louis, Missouri | For more information, visit www.NICBtraining.org

Mar. 30 - Apr. 2, 2009

North East Chapter, International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (NE-IAATI) Regional Seminar

Buffalo, New York | For more information, visit www.neiaati.org

May 12 - 14, 2009

South East Chapter, IAATI Regional Seminar

Columbia, South Carolina | For more information, visit www.seiaati.org

June 21 -25, 2009

IAATI International Conference

Westminster, Colorado | For more information, visit www.iaati.org

August 10 -14, 2009

Board Member, continued from front page

Having earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from West Chester State College in 1976, he had a solid foundation on which to build a successful career in Pennsylvania's law enforcement system. He subsequently held command positions at the troop level and eventually was promoted to Deputy Commissioner of Operations under Commissioner Miller.

Colonel Pawlowski's other notable achievements, reported on *Positive Leo*, a law enforcement blog, include his work as a hostage negotiator, his role in the investigation of the Camp Hill Prison riots, and his service as special council to the State Attorney General during a probe of former State Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen.

The ATPA is proud to welcome Colonel Pawlowski and looks forward to his guidance and participation as a Board member. His previous participation with the ATPA includes serving as Captain in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Investigations

Division, which supervised the State Police Auto Theft Task Forces. He also represented the State Police at a speaking engagement at the North East Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators' Training Conference held on May 14, 2008 in Scranton, PA.

For more information about Commissioner Colonel Frank E. Palowski, visit the Pennsylvania State Police website at www.psp.state.pa.us.



Pennsylvania State Police patch, courtesy of www.psp.state.pa.us

ATPA & Reading Police Launch “Take Your Keys”

Public Awareness Program Warns Drivers, Police Issue Tickets for Unattended Vehicles

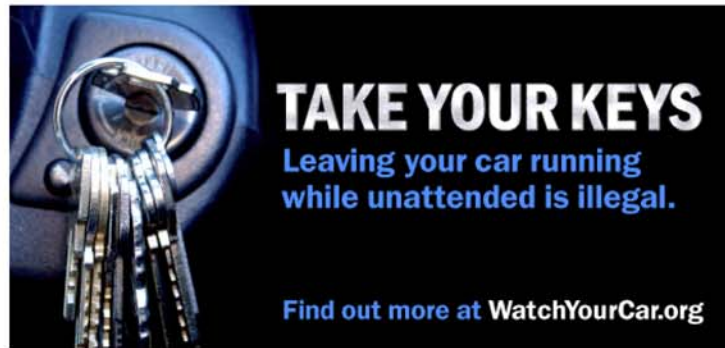


Chief Heim of the Reading Police, DA John Adams, and ATPA Executive Director Michelle Staton announce “Take Your Keys” program on WFMZ-TV Channel 69 evening news

“THE TAKE YOUR KEYS PROGRAM EDUCATES DRIVERS THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO LEAVE THEIR VEHICLE RUNNING UNATTENDED”



Spanish bus shelter advertising



Campaign billboard advertising

At a joint press conference in Reading, Mayor Thomas M. McMahon, Police Chief William M. Heim, Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams, and ATPA Executive Director Michelle Staton unveiled a new public awareness campaign. The “Take Your Keys” program educates drivers that it is illegal to leave their vehicle running unattended, and warns that the Reading Police Department is currently issuing tickets to offenders.

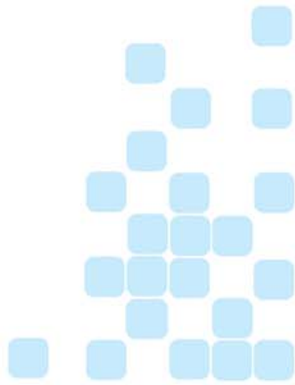
Drivers can avoid the ticket and prevent auto theft by turning off their engine, taking their keys, and locking their doors. Auto theft is a crime of opportunity, and leaving vehicles running unattended creates the perfect opportunity for theft. It only takes three seconds to steal a running vehicle.

Mayor McMahon announced that, “Auto theft, like gun crime and burglary, is often violent and dangerous. Our focus has been to reduce auto theft and other violent crime, not just by focusing on stopping criminals, but by also asking the community to do their part to protect themselves and to become advocates for safer streets and neighborhoods. The “Take Your Keys” program is a perfect example of how educating citizens and informing them of the simple things they can do to protect themselves, will lead to a reduction in serious crime.”

“The Reading Police Department’s Auto Theft Unit is part of a coordinated regional task force, together with the Pennsylvania State Police, the Muhlenberg Township Police, and the Berks County District Attorney’s Office, which is committed to combating auto theft in Berks County. The “Take Your Keys” program is one part of an ongoing effort to put the brakes on auto theft. Tickets are issued to people who leave their vehicle running unattended, which is a violation of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, Title 75, Subsection 3701. We are participating in this effort because unattended running vehicles are easy targets for theft. This is our way of strongly encouraging people to turn off their engines, lock the doors, and take the keys to prevent this type of auto theft,” added Chief Heim.

DA Adams agreed, mentioning that, “Stopping crime is often 9/10 prevention. The work of the coordinated task force, coupled with prevention initiatives like this, is working in Berks County.”

“This year, auto theft in Berks County is down by 8%, and down by 36% from 2006 levels. But there is more work to be done. “Drivers need to take active steps to protect themselves,” Staton said. “It begins with common sense. We are hoping that with this warning, we can encourage drivers to help stop preventable auto thefts.”



The ATPA continually strives to find new ways to combat and prevent auto theft in Pennsylvania. Here are a few note-worthy highlights.

ATPA Highlights

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STATON PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL VEHICLE THEFT SUMMIT



The ATPA believes that the effective coordination of law enforcement and public awareness-building prevention initiatives have worked to reduce auto theft in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On December 10, 2008, ATPA Executive Director Michelle Staton shared this point of view with a group of law enforcement and insurance industry professionals at a vehicle theft summit held at the GEICO corporate headquarters outside of Washington DC.

The summit was a perfect opportunity for the ATPA to join forces with their counterparts to identify national and international trends that are affecting auto crimes in the United States.

The meeting was sponsored by the ATPA, the Maryland Department of State Police, the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, the Virginia State Police Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Program, the MD-DC Anti-Car Theft (A.C.T.) Committee, and was hosted by the Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO).

ATPA LAUNCHES "GREEN IS" SWEEPS, CELEBRATES PLAYOFFS



As the NFL regular season came to an end, the ATPA concluded their public awareness effort, the Eagles Lock, Block & Win Sweepstakes. The contest encouraged fans and residents of the southeast region of PA to enter to win great prizes and to learn how to protect their vehicle.

The Eagles' season continued after earning a place in the playoffs. To celebrate this achievement, to reward loyal fans, and to continue the educational and preventative nature of the partnership, the ATPA has launched another sweepstakes called the Green Is: Scoring Some Cool Stuff Contest. Fans can enter by visiting www.philadelphiaeagles.com/fanzone.

ATPA FEATURED IN NATIONAL REPORT ON AUTO THEFT



The National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan organization that serves the legislatures and staffs of the states, commonwealths, and territories, has published a report on auto theft prevention. The report was written by Donna Lyons and Anne Teigen.

Among the topics discussed in the report, state auto theft prevention authorities are examined. The PA ATPA is highlighted as a successful example of a coordinated, non-taxpayer funded organization.

The report also highlights seven principles of sound auto theft prevention, funding of auto theft prevention authorities, and various auto theft-related laws. A full copy is available through the organization's website at www.ncsl.org.

In the News

Motorists advised not to leave car running

Maryland law enforcement officials issued a warning that with the weather cooling, police will remind drivers that walking away from their vehicle while it's running not only increases the likelihood of auto theft but is illegal.

Officials also reported that auto theft detectives found that about 50 percent of vehicle thefts occurred after someone left their keys in the ignition.

It was also reported that if a vehicle is stolen because the keys were left in the ignition, insurance companies may not pay for the stolen car and the owner sometimes must still make car payments.

www.explorebaltimorecounty.com

Text messages nab carjacking suspect

An Ohio man used a friend's cell phone to get back his car, cell phone, and cash, all of which were stolen in a car jacking, according to a local TV report.

After filing a police report, the victim met with friends and texted a phoney party invitation to the stolen phone.

The suspects fell for the trick and showed up with the stolen vehicle, but instead of a party, were met by waiting police.

CBS News

Lancaster chop shop busted

For five years, a group ran a chop shop in Manheim Township, Lancaster County, refurbishing and reselling about 60 stolen motorcycles. All five suspects were sentenced to prison.

The main defendant was charged by the State Attorney General's Office with selling as many as 60 stolen cycles between 2000 and 2005 — bikes that his employees had allegedly "restamped" with vehicle identification numbers from wrecked cycles.

The other four defendants had lesser and individual roles in the operation, such as changing the identification numbers, polishing and selling the motorcycles.

Lancaster New Era

Allentown man admits running chop shop

An Allentown man admitted in Lehigh County Court to running a stolen car chop shop. The suspect, who was 21, pleaded guilty to five felonies: four counts of receiving stolen property and one of criminal conspiracy. The suspect faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

According to the police affidavit, the suspect stole four Honda Civics from Allentown, Emmaus, Salisbury Township, and Quakertown with the help of at least one other person. The vehicles were broken down for parts.

The cars were recovered in various stages of disassembly within blocks of the alleged chop shop, a rented garage.

The Morning Call

Chief: 'Don't leave running cars unattended'

Leaving your vehicle unattended to warm up is an invitation to car thieves, according to Whitehall Township Police Chief Theodore D. Kohuth.

Kohuth noted that declining economic conditions nationwide have led to an increase in crime and Whitehall is not immune.

"GPS systems, computers, purses, wallets, and detachable radios should either be secured in the vehicle trunk prior to the arrival at your destination or take them with you upon exiting the vehicle."

Catasauqua Press

Three girls and one boy charged in theft of vehicle

Four Reading High School students, who were set to leave school in a stolen car, have been charged with auto theft, city police reported.

According to the police, the car was stolen from a pizza deliveryman.

The Reading Police Auto Theft Unit conducted surveillance, which led to the arrest of the suspects, who were charged in juvenile court.

The Reading Eagle





The Driving Force
Issue 3/2008
www.adagp.com

ATPA Reports Rise in Dealership Thefts

In response to an increase in reported auto thefts from dealerships, the ATPA contributed an article for the Automobile Dealers Association of Greater Philadelphia's quarterly publication, *The Driving Force*, entitled "Thefts from Dealerships are on the Rise: Assess Your Risk and Protect Your Investment."

The dealership owner-targeted article encouraged personnel to seriously consider their risk and the impact thefts have on their business. The need for security was emphasized with accounts of recent reports. For example, "one ATPA grantee reported that in 2007, \$1.8 million dollars worth of stolen vehicles were taken from dealerships in the southeast region of Pennsylvania. \$1.1 million of those vehicles were stolen by one person!"

The article cautioned that it doesn't take a dealership insider to orchestrate thefts. In fact, many thieves know of dealership security vulnerabilities. The article concluded by exploring the following security assessment questions:

- Does your dealership have adequate surveillance?
- Are your keys safe?
- Do you keep track of your inventory?
- Who is test-driving your vehicles?
- Do you talk about theft?

For more information regarding dealership theft, or for a copy of the full article, call the ATPA at 888-777-ATPA. For more information about the Dealers Association, visit www.adagp.com.

Law Enforcement and Insurance Claims/SIU Professionals: Order Free Training Videos

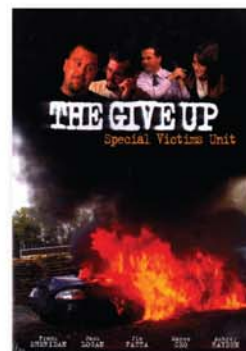
The ATPA offers two training videos relating to owner give-ups. "The Give Up" is tailored for law enforcement professionals, while "The Give Up: Special Victims Unit" is for insurance claims/SIU Professionals. Both videos come with related reference material.

Both videos and additional copies of the reference materials are available free-of-charge by calling the ATPA at: 888-777-ATPA.



"The Give Up"

A training video designed for law enforcement professionals, "The Give Up," reviews the basics for spotting and investigating owner give-ups.



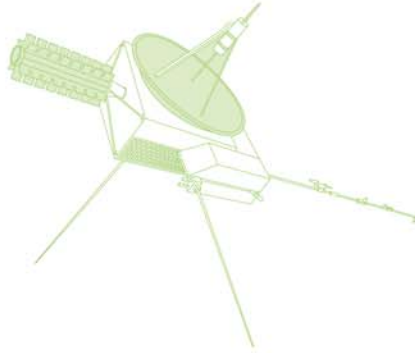
"The Give Up: Special Victims Unit"

A training video designed for insurance claims personnel and special investigative units, "The Give Up: Special Victims Unit" reviews the basics for spotting and investigating owner give-ups from the insurance company's point of view.

THE AUTHORITY'S GRANTEES

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office
Delaware County District Attorney's Office
Erie Bureau of Police
Good Shepherd Mediation Program
Harrisburg Bureau of Police
Lancaster City Police
Lehigh County District Attorney's Office
Northeast Regional Task Force
Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft Committee (PACT)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Central Region)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Eastern Region)
Pennsylvania State Police Auto Theft Unit (Western Region)
Philadelphia District Attorney's Office
Philadelphia Police Department
Pittsburgh Police Department Auto Squad
York County District Attorney's Office

We've gone electronic.



The ATPA offers electronic distribution of this newsletter.*

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*The ATPA will continue print distribution of this newsletter.

THE AUTHORITY

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Phone: 717.591.7097
Media Inquires:
717.443.1025
Fax: 717.591.9046
Toll Free:
1.888.777.ATPA
www.watchyourcar.org

Staff

Michelle L. Staton,
Executive Director

Christine E. Cassel,
Grant Assistant

Mark D. Kandrysawtz,
Public Information Officer

Lt. Joseph L. Datesman
(retired), Training
Instructor

Pennsylvania Auto Theft Prevention Authority
2 Kacey Court, Suite 102
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

