

**Mayor Kurtz's SwiftReach for Aug 19, 2022**

HELLO. IT IS AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE STAND BY FOR A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR. IT WILL REPEAT ONCE.

GOOD FRIDAY EVENING, NEIGHBORS. THIS IS YOUR MAYOR GREG KURTZ. I BEGIN WITH SOME SOBERING NEWS.

IN NORTHEAST OHIO AND **ACROSS THE COUNTRY**, THERE HAS BEEN **AN UPTICK** IN CAR-JACKINGS. **IT IS A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY** – IT KNOWS NO *BOUNDARIES* -- AND IT HAPPENED IN INDEPENDENCE THIS WEEK.

EARLY THURSDAY MORNING **THERE WAS A CARJACKING AT THE SHELL GAS STATION** ON BRECKSVILLE ROAD. A MAN WALKED OUT OF THE GAS STATION AND WAS APPROACHED BY TWO MEN WHO BRANDISHED WEAPONS AND DEMANDED HIS WALLET AND KEYS.

**FORTUNATELY**, THE DRIVER FULLY COOPERATED AND **NO ONE WAS INJURED**.

HAVING A VEHICLE STOLEN IS BAD ENOUGH, **BUT A CARJACKING** IS A POTENTIALLY MORE DANGEROUS CRIME.

EACH CARJACKING IS DIFFERENT, **BUT POLICE** HAVE THIS GENERAL ADVICE:

IF A CARJACKER THREATENS YOU, **GIVE UP YOUR VEHICLE** -- DON'T ARGUE. YOUR LIFE IS TOO PRECIOUS.

**ALWAYS KEEP CAR DOORS LOCKED** – NOT ONLY WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING, BUT WHEN YOU ARE AT WORK, PARKED ON THE STREET, RUNNING ERRANDS, OR AT HOME.

**AND NEVER LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN THE CAR** -- NOT EVEN WHEN YOUR VEHICLE IS PARKED IN YOUR DRIVEWAY OR GARAGE.

THESE TIPS ARE NOT TO ALARM YOU, BUT TO KEEP YOU SAFE.

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION AND OTHER STORIES FROM AROUND THE CITY IN MY WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE WEBSITE.

STAY SAFE, BE WELL AND AS ALWAYS GOD BLESS.