



# NEWS RELEASE

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July 11, 2017

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## Woodridge Police Launch “Lock Your Car – That’s the Key” Campaign to Help Thwart Motor Vehicle Burglaries

- Campaign aims to reduce the number of motor vehicle burglaries in Woodridge
- Motor vehicle burglaries in Woodridge increased 88 percent from 2015-2016; 63 percent of the victims’ vehicles were unlocked
- The campaign will feature social media outreach, signage, and collaboration with organizations about preventing motor vehicle burglaries

**Woodridge, Ill.** – The Woodridge Police Department is launching the “Lock Your Car – That’s the Key” campaign that aims to reduce motor vehicle burglaries. “Lock Your Car – That’s the Key” will feature social media outreach, physical signage and collaboration with organizations throughout the Village of Woodridge to spread awareness. This campaign is in response to a spike in burglaries from motor vehicles in Woodridge and the surrounding area. The crime statistics show that from 2015-2016, 63 percent of the motor vehicles burglarized in Woodridge were unlocked.

Burglary from motor vehicle is a felony offense, and the FBI’s Uniform Crime Report considers it a Part I crime that includes thefts, homicides, and assaults. “A burglary from a motor vehicle is often a ‘crime of opportunity’ that is easily preventable,” said Deputy Chief Tom Stefanson. “Simply locking your car is the easiest way to avoid becoming victimized.”

### Burglary From a Motor Vehicle

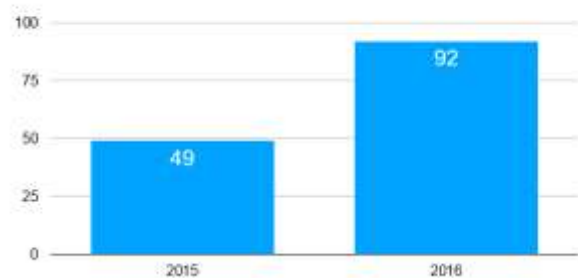


Figure 1 Motor Vehicle Burglaries rose by 88 percent from 2015 – 2016.



The vast majority of motor vehicle burglaries in Woodridge are from unlocked cars. Specifically, 63 percent of those motor vehicle burglaries from 2015-2016 occurred when the driver or occupants left the vehicle unlocked. In contrast, only 24 percent of motor vehicle burglaries occurred when the driver or occupants locked the car. The vehicle owner did not recall if he or she locked the vehicle in the remaining 13 percent of burglaries.

2016 Motor Vehicle Burglaries

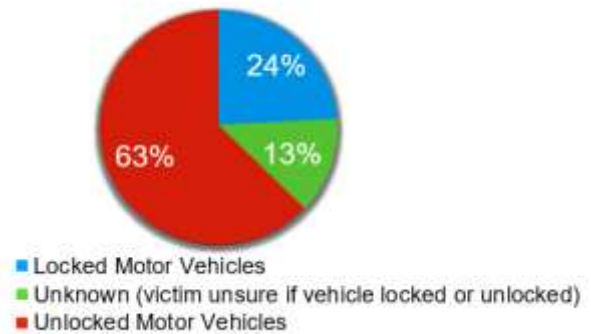


Figure 2 In 2016, 63 percent of motor vehicle burglaries occurred to unlocked vehicles in Woodridge.

“The Lock Your Car – That’s the Key’ is a campaign that serves as a reminder that locking your car is a vital and easy way to prevent a motor vehicle burglary,” said Chief of Police Brian Cunningham. “The numbers are clear that locking your car prevents burglaries. I’m hopeful this campaign encourages drivers to pre-emptively reduce the chance of becoming a victim and lower the amount of motor vehicle burglaries in Woodridge.”

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