



# Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office

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Chief Warrant Officer

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 13, 2022**

## **Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office And Hunterdon County Prosecutor Put Out Joint Warning Regarding Vehicle Thefts And Thefts From Motor Vehicles**

Hunterdon County Sheriff Fred W. Brown and Prosecutor Renee Robeson are working together to inform the community about a rise in vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles, in an effort to protect families, home, and property, and to prevent additional crimes being committed with the stolen vehicle in other communities.

Sheriff Brown said, "There has been a significant rise in the number of stolen vehicles, and vehicle break-ins, all over the state. The rise in thefts is of great concern to law enforcement offices and Prosecutor Robeson and I wanted to share this information with the Hunterdon County community to keep residents safe and remind everyone to stay vigilant."

Here is some important information about the current vehicle theft trend and tips to avoid a theft:

- New Jersey, like much of the rest of the country, has seen a sharp spike in car thefts
- In 2021 there was a 22 percent increase in car thefts and the numbers have continued to rise this year
- Car theft is up 31 percent so far in 2022
- Don't leave your car running
- Lock your car
- An unlocked car is an invitation to car thieves
- Take your keys or key fob with you even if you are parked in a garage
- Don't leave other valuables in your car
- If possible, park in a garage or a well-lit place
- Thieves troll the area looking for cars with mirrors turned out which often indicates that the car is unlocked, and the key may be in the vehicle
- Stolen cars are often used in other crimes
- Finally, if your car is stolen report the theft to the police immediately

Prosecutor Robeson said, "Prevention is truly the best protection. By simply taking your key fob out of your car and keeping your car locked you can safeguard your property and help to avoid further crimes from occurring in your community and around the State."

“Another tip is to avoid leaving your garage door opener in your car in a place where it can be seen by thieves, especially in an unlocked vehicle. Something as simple as making sure your windows are completely closed can deter a potential thief from choosing your car. Avoiding the opportunity for someone to enter your car, or take your keys and then enter your home, will keep residents safe,” Sheriff Brown stated.

For additional information on how to keep your vehicle, your home, and your family safe, visit the National Insurance Crime Bureau website, <https://www.nicb.org/prevent-fraud-theft/prevent-auto-theft>.