

CRIME ALERT

**3rd Precinct Sector 4
(Longfellow, Seward, Howe)**

February 12, 2009

Facts:

During February 3-9 there has been seven auto thefts reported in Sector 4 neighborhoods. In two of the incidents the car was not stolen, but the steering column had been "peeled" in an attempt to steal the car.

Theft locations:

20xx 22nd Ave. S.

32xx 31st Ave. S.

33xx 32nd Ave. S.

30xx 29th Ave. S.

22xx E. Franklin Ave.

36xx Minnehaha Ave.

28xx Lake St. E.

There have been no arrests in any of these cases. The time frame varies on all seven of these auto theft reports. If you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please call 911 and report it.

Below are some helpful tips to help protect your car and your valuables.

What you can do:

- **Do not leave the keys in your car!** Keep keys with you at all times.
- **Turn off your ignition.** If your car is parked (street or alley) with the engine running and no one is present, Minneapolis police will ticket it. If your car is reported stolen while the key is in the ignition, you will receive a ticket.
- **Lock your car up.** Don't make it easy for a car thief to gain access to your vehicle.
- Use visible deterrents such as the steering wheel bar, also called the "Club," to make a vehicle difficult to steal. If you have an alarm system in your vehicle, **use it.**
- **Keep a watchful eye out and call 911 if you see suspicious behavior.** Since a majority of these crimes are occurring at night, be especially alert to sounds like breaking glass.
- If your car is stolen, report it. Reporting is important because it may be possible to identify patterns through accumulated reports. This will help the police deal with the problem.
- If you have a garage, use it and be sure to lock it.
- If you park on the street, park in well-lit areas. This increases the chances of vandals or thieves being seen.
- Don't leave any valuables in your vehicle. A thief may be attracted to something in your car and then steal the car once they have entered it.

If you have any questions, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist Shun Tillman (612-673-2846 or shun.tillman@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

Please share this information with residents in your neighborhood.

