

# Arlington Heights Police Department

## VEHICLE BURGLARY PREVENTION



Would you leave a stack of **\$20** dollar bills sitting on the dashboard of your car while you were working, shopping, visiting a friend or just sitting inside your home? If you are like most people the answer is a resounding **NO!** But there are hundreds maybe even thousands of people in Arlington Heights each day that leave their GPS, radar detector, laptop computer, ipod, purse, briefcase or other valuables sitting in plain view on the car seat, dashboard or floor. The vast majority of the Vehicle Burglaries in Arlington Heights involve valuables in plain view being taken out of locked or unlocked vehicles parked in business, apartment, and condo parking lots, as well as, residential driveways and along village streets.

These crimes can occur at anytime during the day ☀️ or night 🌙 .

Vehicle burglary is a crime of opportunity. There are three basic elements of a typical vehicle burglary:

- #1) Vehicle parked outside and accessible to a potential criminal.
- #2) Items of value (GPS, Radar Detectors, Purses, Computers, etc) are left in plain view
- #3) Offender either breaks window or opens unlocked door and removes items.

**WE CAN** control the first two elements.

- ✓ Use a garage if available.
- ✓ Remove all items of value from plain view, including the brackets or docking stations.

By following these recommendations we, as a **community** can reduce the incidents of vehicle burglary by limiting the offender's desire to complete the crime – **ELEMENT #3.**

Additionally we can follow these crime prevention tips:

- ✓ Always close the windows and lock your car.
- ✓ Park your car in a well-lit area, where it can be easily and frequently viewed.
- ✓ Do not leave important papers including personal identification, check books, vehicle titles or a spare key in the car.
- ✓ Document all serial numbers and/or engrave property.
- ✓ And always remember to **call 9-1-1 immediately** to report any suspicious person(s), car(s) or activity.
- ✓ Do not confront suspicious subjects. Your personal safety is more valuable than any piece of property.

Follow these Vehicle Burglary Prevention tips to keep your valuables out of the hands of criminals.

