



PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Charles H. Ramsey, Police Commissioner
Police Headquarters, Franklin Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106

PPDonline.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GPS THEFTS

The entire Philadelphia area has been experiencing a rise in thefts from parked vehicles, largely due to GPS (Tom-Tom) device being targeted. The Philadelphia Police Districts hardest hit are the center-city districts (6th and 9th) and two Northeast Districts (15th and 8th). There have been over 600 thefts of GPS device record this year in Philadelphia, which is 21% of the overall theft from vehicle.

Attached is a flyer with tips and warnings for people to help avoid this problem.

Contact:
Lt. Frank Vanore
Commanding Officer
Public Affairs
215-686-3388/3389

WARNING WARNING WARNING



IF YOU LEAVE IT ATTACHED IT MIGHT GET SNATCHED.

Thieves are targeting vehicles with portable GPS navigational systems. Many owners attach the GPS device to their vehicle windshield or dashboard and forget to detach and secure it when they exit their vehicle.

DON'T BECOME A VICTIM! TAKE A MOMENT TO PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE AND YOUR INVESTMENT.

TIPS TO AVOID THEFT FROM VEHICLES:

1. Never leave valuables in your vehicle, but if it is necessary, place them out of plain view.
2. Be aware of your surroundings; a thief may be watching and waiting for an opportunity to strike.
3. When exiting your parked vehicle, make sure all windows are closed, doors are locked, and keys are removed.
4. Take out removable radios, faceplates, and accessories. Also, engrave expensive accessories.
5. Try to park in well-lit high traffic areas close to your destination.
6. Use anti-theft devices and activate vehicle alarm systems.
7. Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or your neighborhood.

***** INFORMATION
SUPPLIED BY THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE MAJOR. CRIMES AUTO SQUAD

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

HOTLINE: 215-686-TIPS DIRECT LINE: 215-685-9130